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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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ACTION

August 4, 1969

DOS, NSS, DOE  
reviews completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: Release of Memorandum to Holders of  
NIE 11-8-68 to the British

The USIB is currently considering a State (INR) request to release the recent National Intelligence Estimate on Soviet strategic forces to the UK (Tab A). You will recall that this was a very sensitive estimate and closely held in Washington. While State cites some valid reasons for releasing it to the British, there are also strong policy arguments against it. The British, and particularly Wilson, have been critical of our SALT position claiming it should be much more comprehensive and include a MIRV ban and complete ban on ABMs. This estimate, when passed and sanitized, would normally exclude footnotes of dissent (this is the standard practice); if so, the British would obtain strong ammunition to argue their case, since the text of the estimate would be the CIA position, which expresses doubts whether the Soviets are engaged in MIRV development.

You will also recall that Larry Lynn did a critique of this estimate and found it wanting in several key areas.

All things considered, it would be best if this particular estimate did not go to the British, especially since the next version is due in September. The bureaucratic legalities of this procedure are that the estimate will be released if no one raises policy objections. I think we should.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you inform USIB Secretariat (or Helms' office if you prefer) that we do not want this estimate circulated to the UK.

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*Release Sept. estimate  
Do raise objection - unless*

*8-12-69*

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All things considered, it would be best if this particular estimate did not go to the British, especially since the next version is due in September. The bureaucratic legalities of this procedure are that the estimate will be released if no one raises policy objections. I think we should.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That you inform USIB Secretariat (or Helms' office if you prefer) that we do not want this estimate circulated to the UK.

W Hyland/hk

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USIB-D-17.8/455

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH  
WASHINGTON

~~JUL 30 1968~~

Memorandum For:

[Redacted]

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Executive Secretary  
United States Intelligence Board

Subject : Release of Memorandum to Holders of  
NIE 11-8-68

Reference : USIB-D-17.8/448, July 10, 1969  
USIB-D-17.1/25 , March 25, 1968

Although the Department of State acknowledges the validity of the considerations of sensitivity which led the Board of National Estimates to recommend that release not be made to the UK of the Memorandum to Holders of NIE 11-8-68, we believe that there are advantages to dissemination which would outweigh the drawbacks.

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[Redacted] We recognize that NIE 11-8-69 will probably be available for distribution to London by early to mid-September. However, there will undoubtedly be a

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number of high level US-UK contacts well before that time, and, for this reason the Department urges favorable USIB action to release to the UK the Memorandum to Holders.

*Thomas L. Hughes*  
Thomas L. Hughes

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