

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

JCS REVIEWED 29-Nov-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

REFER TO OSD

March 5, 1974

DOS REVIEWED 07 NOV 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JAN M. LODAL *Jan*

SUBJECT: Joint Strategic Objectives Plan

OSD REVIEWED 02-Dec-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

At the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Deputy Secretary of Defense is forwarding to the President the Joint Strategic Objectives Plan (JSOP), Volume II, Book I for FY 1976 through FY 1983 (Tab A).

Principal Points in the JSOP

Principal points made in the FY 1976-1983 JSOP and the forwarding memorandum from the Chairman of the JCS to the Secretary of Defense are as follows:

-- The JSOP states that the objective force levels recommended "represent a force posture that will provide a reasonable prospect for successful execution of the strategy."

-- The JSOP objective force averages 5.5 percent of the gross national product per year. This is a smaller percentage than that consumed by today's defense budget, but is still higher than that called for in the Five Year Defense Program (FYDP).

-- Overall JSOP costs exceed FYDP costs by an average of about 20 percent a year. The major portion of this differential is attributable to the General Purpose forces category.

-- The Chairman of the JCS says that there are risks associated with the programmed force levels, and that there are risks inherent in our strategy. He says these risks argue for allocation of resources sufficient to permit attainment of force levels about the same as those recommended in the JSOP. He also cautions about the difference between Soviet professions of detente and their level of military preparedness; subtle economic, psychological, and political dimensions of the threat; and our ability to support a contingency requiring high consumption of supplies by the United States or by a friend or ally.

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My Views

The JSOP is an important step, but still only a preliminary step, in the planning, programming, and budgeting process. Because it intentionally is not constrained by economic realities, it could be accidentally misleading to the President. Also, it contains a large amount of technical details not required to be assimilated by the President.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that you not forward the JSOP to the President. If you agree, please return the JSOP to us for monitoring and future reference.

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

28 FEB 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Joint Strategic Objectives Plan, Volume II, for FY 1976-1983

At the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I am forwarding to you the Joint Strategic Objectives Plan (JSOP), Volume II, Book I, which covers the mid-range period from FY 1976 through FY 1983.

The document contains the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding objective force levels. We will consider these views, along with other considerations, in planning for development of the FY 1976 Defense Budget.

A. P. Clement

Enclosure
a/s

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WHEN SEPARATED FROM
CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES

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JOINT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES PLAN

**FOR FY 1976 THROUGH FY 1983
(JSOP FY 76 - 83)**

VOLUME II ANALYSES AND FORCE TABULATIONS

BOOK I INTRODUCTION, FORCE APPRAISAL, AND MAJOR FORCES



THE PROVISIONS OF JCS MEMORANDUM OF POLICY NO. 84 ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS DOCUMENT. ACCORDINGLY, A SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT AS OF 1 JANUARY AND 1 JULY OF THE SIGHTING OF THIS DOCUMENT IS REQUIRED AND...

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652