

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION  
April 23, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Spurgeon Keeny *SK*  
Morton Halperin *MH*

SUBJECT: Seabed Nuclear Arms Control Item for RG Meeting April 25

ACDA would like to table a draft US treaty on seabed nuclear arms control at the ENDC before it recesses on or about May 22. ACDA believes that this is the only effective response to the unacceptable Soviet draft treaty calling for prohibition of all military activities on the seabed which was tabled at the beginning of this ENDC session.

As a result of the NSC meeting on March 12, ACDA was given authority to take a forthcoming posture on this subject at the ENDC and to indicate our interest in working out an agreement in due course. The issue was not resolved at the NSC meeting as to whether we are in fact prepared to negotiate a specific treaty at this time. The NSSM 41 study, therefore, has re-examined the desirability for such a treaty to over-all US interests and the specific alternative formulations of such a draft treaty.

The JCS will take the position that such a treaty is not in our over-all interest, while State will support ACDA's position that the treaty is in our over-all interest at this time. The JCS staff anticipates that the JCS will be over-ruled in this matter and is recommending that the JCS oppose the ACDA position on the following four specific points of treaty language (see summary paper for more detailed explanations):

1. ACDA believes the treaty should cover all nuclear weapons on the seabed, while the JCS believes it should cover fixed-only nuclear weapons.
2. ACDA believes the prohibition should extend beyond a narrow band up to the coast of any other state, while the JCS believes it should extend beyond a narrow band up to a corresponding band adjacent to the coast of any other state.
3. ACDA believes the width of the narrow band beyond which the prohibition would apply should be 12 miles, while the JCS believes it should be 3 miles.

~~TOP SECRET~~

