

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION/ 8619

~~SECRET~~ (3)

December 20, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: MICHAEL A. GUHIN *MG*

THRU: DAVID D. ELLIOTT *D.E.*

SUBJECT: Updating the NSSM 157 Study, US Position  
on Chemical Weapons Prohibitions

The NSSM 157 study, US position on chemical weapons prohibitions, was forwarded for consideration in August 1972. On September 25 you informed the interested agencies that the President wishes to have the issues aired at an early NSC meeting.

It would be preferable to have a decision prior to the February 20 session of the Geneva Disarmament Conference. However, before meeting on this subject, I believe three aspects of the study should be updated:

1. The verification section should be updated to include analysis of subsequent Soviet proposals and any others deemed appropriate.
2. The shelf-life question should be examined further (e. g. , how long can we maintain a capability with current stocks and what measures would be necessary to ensure such a capability? ).
3. The section on our binary weapons program should include recent developments or problems and schedules.

The memorandum for the addressees of NSSM 157 at Tab A would request these three updates by the appropriate agencies.

Dick Kennedy concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A requesting these three supplementary reports.

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