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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

CONFUDENTIAL/GDS

December 9, 1974

National Security Decision Memorandum 281

TO:The Secretary of DefenseThe Deputy Secretary of StateThe Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 on Gas Warfare

The President has reviewed the report of December 6 submitted by the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, pursuant to NSDM 279. He has approved the report and authorizes the Director to state before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that:

- the formulation of U.S. policy toward tear gas and herbicides incorporated in the report is the President's position,
- (2) it is the President's intention to conform U.S. policy accordingly, assuming the Senate consents to ratification on this basis, and
- (3) the President continues to urge advice and consent to ratification of the Biological Warfare Convention.

The President also approves the notification of appropriate allied governments of the Administration's position on the Protocol prior to the appearance of the Director before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

H_____ A. Kin Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director of Central Intelligence The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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