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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

AGENDA

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 1, 1976

U.S. Strategy and Naval Force Requirements -- Part II

- Brief review of Part I -- covered on April 22, 1976
- U.S. Navy Missions
- History of Navy Shipbuilding
- Meeting the Soviet Maritime Challenge
- Deriving a U.S. Navy
 - Carriers
 - Nuclear Power
 - Force Levels
- Summary of Present Capabilities
- Alternative Force Structures and Capabilities
- Requested Guidance
 - Concurrence
 - World conditions/political assumptions
 - Requirement for maritime superiority
 - Increasing force levels
 - Nuclear/conventional power mix
 - Exploitation of technology
 - Decisions
 - Carrier issue
 - Pace of ship construction
 - Implications for FY 77 Budget

ISSUES FOR PRESIDENTIAL GUIDANCE

CONCURRENCE

- o Validity of Future World Conditions and Political Assumptions
 - Continuation of expansion of Soviet politico-military influence will lead to tensions and possibility of confrontations
 - Constrained U.S. access to bases for unilateral action
 - Western Europe and Japan continue to be vital areas
 - Economic and technological trends will shrink the world
 - Sino-Soviet relationship will continue to be important
 - Third world political instability will continue
- o Plan for a Combined U.S. and Allied Maritime Superiority, including All National Assets
 - Provides for maritime forces, with our allies, necessary to defeat the Soviet Navy in a timely manner
 - Implies a continuing objective of maintenance of a strong forward deployed deterrent
 - Implies maintenance of freedom of the seas in peacetime and wartime
 - Contributes to the maintenance of world stability
- o Increase Naval Force Levels
 - All alternatives being considered increase current force levels to satisfy our objectives and maritime superiority
 - Implies acceptance of the level and capability of the Soviet maritime challenge
- o Provide for Mix of Nuclear and Conventional Powered Ships
 - Implies a move away from the HASC action on shipbuilding toward lower mix ships

o Exploit Research and Development Leading to New Technology and New Applications for Accomplishment of Sea Control

- Retain the flexibility to adapt to new technology -- offensive as well as defensive
- Retain the initiative in technological advancement

DECISION

o Nuclear Carrier Levels -- Zero or One?

- Stopping further construction of large nuclear powered carriers would imply confidence in the success of new technology toward V/STOL carriers and acceptance of a 11-12 carrier task force capability
- The building of an additional carrier would imply a hedge against new technology for carriers and provide for 12-13 operational carriers at all times

o Pace of Ship Construction

- Once having made a decision on the objective level, there is an issue regarding the pace of achievement. We could set a larger force level but not request any additional funds in FY 77 beyond the current budget request
- Or we could accelerate the pace and request additional funds in FY 77 to buy additional guided missile frigates and for long lead funds for the additional carrier, as examples.
- In addition we could request an additional \$200 million in RDT&E in FY 77 to accelerate the V/STOL technology, anti-ship missile technology, and air defense technology.

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