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THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: October 29, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Quick Turnaround Please Time:

SUBJECT:

Scowcroft memo 10/29/76 re
Minuteman III Production

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Defense Department has asked that this be acted on
by Sunday - October 31. ---

*NSC received approval
from air Force I about 4:30 PM
10/30/76 — they will notify Defense
original returned + given to
NSC 11/2/76*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a
delay in submitting the required material, please
telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Trudy:

Jim has seen -
said to put in
a courier; doesn't
need to be done.

E. 10/29
2:25

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: October 29, 1976

Time:

OCT 29 1976

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

due ASAP

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

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Confidential attachment
Approved
Jim Connor

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If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL GDS

October 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*
SUBJECT: Minuteman III Production

In April of this year, you requested an additional \$322.4 million in FY 1977 funding to continue production of Minuteman III ICBMs and the improved yield Mark 12A warhead. These funds preserved options to maintain the Minuteman III production line and accelerate the Mark 12A program into FY 1977 instead of FY 1978, as originally planned.

In submitting this supplemental, you noted that these decisions were based upon our assessment of the pace of the strategic arms limitations negotiations and Soviet weapons developments, and that we would have the opportunity later this year to review the matter further prior to signing contracts for both continued Minuteman III and initial Mark 12A production.

The Congress has approved the full amount of this supplemental request, and the Secretary of Defense has reviewed the issue of continued Minuteman III production. In a memo to you (Tab B), Secretary Rumsfeld recommends that the Air Force be authorized to take immediate action to procure the 60 Minuteman III missiles provided for in the supplemental, thus maintaining that system's production line through FY 1977. The Secretary also notes that he has deferred a decision on Mark 12A procurement pending ERDA certification of warhead yield.

I agree with Don Rumsfeld that we should authorize procurement of the 60 Minuteman III missiles at this time. This will allow us to maintain our production line capability as we continue to assess SALT TWO progress and Soviet strategic weapons developments. It is desirable to act on this matter prior to October 31 so that present production contracts may be extended into November without any delays or funding lapses. The

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KE 9/18/76

procurement contracts will include provisions to allow termination of production should the SALT TWO negotiations culminate in a satisfactory agreement. Secretary Kissinger has reviewed the issue and supports Rumsfeld's recommendation, as does Jim Lynn.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize me to sign the memo to Secretary Rumsfeld at Tab A indicating your approval of procurement of 60 additional Minuteman III ICBMs and asking him to inform you of his decision on Mark 12A procurement at the appropriate time.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL GDS

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Minuteman III Production

The President has reviewed your memorandum of September 27, 1976 regarding Minuteman III procurement, and has approved your recommendation that the Air Force be authorized to take immediate action to procure 60 Minuteman III missiles in FY 1977. The President has also noted your decision to defer a similar decision on the Mark 12A warhead, and requests that you inform him of your decision on that program at the appropriate time.

Brent Scowcroft

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KR 5/18/86

CONFIDENTIAL

1653/19
Staff

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

27 SEP 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Minuteman Program

Congress has taken affirmative action on Department of Defense FY 1977 Budget Amendment requests for procurement of 60 Minuteman III missiles and related storage facilities. I have deferred a decision as long as practical regarding continued Minuteman III production while continuing to assess SALT II negotiation progress and Soviet improvements in ICBM capabilities. Based on my assessment, I have concluded that continued production would be in the national interest at this time.

I recommend that the Air Force be authorized to take immediate action to procure 60 Minuteman III missiles in FY 77. Such a procurement will include contractual provisions to allow termination of such production should the SALT II negotiations culminate in a satisfactory agreement.

The Budget Amendment requests also include funds for initial procurement of the MK 12A -- an improved yield reentry vehicle for Minuteman III. I have deferred a decision on MK 12A pending ERDA certification of warhead yield.

Dick R. Field

Classified by Sec Def
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE. AUTOMATICALLY FORN
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec
1982

CONFIDENTIAL

KE 5/10/88

SEC DEF CONTR No. X-2799