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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET GDS

January 13, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT 

SUBJECT:

NSDM on Navy Shipbuilding
Program

On December 2, 1976, you reviewed the National Security Council Study on U. S. Strategy and Naval Force Requirements. The study provided a basis for your decisions on the Navy shipbuilding program in preparing the FY 1978 Budget.

The attached draft NSDM describes the fundamental rationale and content of your five-year shipbuilding program. The issuance of a NSDM is appropriate because it completes the NSC review of the Navy shipbuilding program and provides a decision document to establish formally your five-year program.

The approved Navy shipbuilding program builds toward an active fleet of about 600 ships in the 1990s; maintains a balanced force with a mix of individual ship capabilities; and proceeds at a pace which provides for real growth in funding and maintains existing fleet units at high levels of readiness while the shipbuilding plan is being carried out. In addition, the approved program cancels procurement of the previously requested NIMITZ class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN-71) and proceeds as rapidly as practical to construct a new class of V/STOL aircraft carriers.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve my signing the attached NSDM.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

DOD and OMB concur in the proposed NSDM.

SECRET GDS

KR 5/18/89

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

National Security Decision Memorandum

TO: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Navy Shipbuilding Program

The President has reviewed the results of the National Security Council Study on U.S. Strategy and Naval Force Requirements, and has decided that the United States and its allies must in combination maintain a superiority in maritime capability that can deter or defeat the Soviet threat in a timely manner. The United States must also maintain maritime forces capable of carrying out other U.S. military requirements. The shipbuilding plan which will assure the accomplishment of these goals should:

- Provide for steady growth in active ship force levels to attain and maintain an active force of about 600 ships in the mid-1990s.
- Maintain a balanced force of ships which includes a mix of units with high individual capability and a larger proportion of ships with lower individual capability.
- Proceed at a pace which provides both real growth in funding and industrial capability to maintain existing fleet units at high levels of readiness while the shipbuilding program is being carried out.
- Cancel procurement of the previously requested NIMITZ-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN-71) and proceed as rapidly as practical to construct a new class of V-STOL aircraft carriers.

Accordingly, the President has decided on a shipbuilding plan which is derived from Option I in the study, with modifications. The following table shows the approved five-year shipbuilding plan:

	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>Total</u>
FBM Submarines (Trident)	2	1	2	1	2	8
Attack Submarines (SSN-688)	2	1	1	2	2	8
V/STOL Carrier (CVV)	-	1	-	1	-	2
Carrier SLEP*	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	(2)
Strike Cruisers (CSGN)	-	1	-	-	1	2
AEGIS Destroyers (DDG-47)	1	-	3	3	3	10
Frigates (FFG)	11	11	12	13	11	58
Mine Warfare	-	1	6	6	6	19
Amphibious (LSD-41)	-	1	-	2	3	6
Support	9	12	12	8	3	44
Support Conversion	<u>(1)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1)</u>
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	25	29	36	36	31	157
CONVERSION	(1)		(1)		(1)	(3)

 * Service Life Extension Program

Brent Scowcroft

cc: The Secretary of State
 The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 The Director, Office of Management and Budget

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: January 14, 1977

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

up 1/17/77

✓ Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, January 14, 1977

Time: 2:00 P.M.

SUBJECT:

Brent Scowcroft memo, 1/13/77 re
NSDM on Navy Shipbuilding Program.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

SECRET ATTACHMENT

Marsh - approved x

original approved & returned to Scowcroft 1/17/77

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