

Gen Scowcroft

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~ XGDS

February 4, 1976

National Security Decision Memorandum 316

To: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
The Chairman, U. S. SALT Delegation

Subject: Instructions for the SALT Talks in Geneva

The President has approved the following instructions for the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks. These instructions supplement those contained in NSDMs 285, 301, and 303.

1. The Delegation should continue to take the position that the U. S. is willing to agree to a resolution of the silo dimension and heavy ICBM definition issues along the following lines:

-- The original volume of ICBM silo launchers cannot be increased by more than 32 percent. In this case, there will no longer be a need to specify separate limitations on increases in either the depth or diameter of silo launchers.

-- A heavy ICBM will be defined as any ICBM having either a throw weight or a launching weight greater than that of the largest non-heavy ICBM deployed on either side on the date of signature of the agreement.

-- The U. S. considers that these two issues have been agreed in principle.

2. The Delegation should modify the U. S. proposal for a ceiling on heavy ICBMs contained in Article IV, Paragraph 7, by replacing "volume or throw weight" with "launching weight or throw weight" and inform the Soviets that the U. S. considers it essential that agreement be reached on such a ceiling.

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3. The Delegation should propose a definition for the term "throw weight" along the following lines:

The throw weight of a ballistic missile is the sum of the weight of: (1) its reentry vehicles, (2) its penetration aids, and (3) any buses or other devices it has for propulsion, guidance, control, or release which can cause multiple reentry vehicles or penetration aids to reenter the atmosphere at different locations or times.

4. The U.S. Delegation should seek an explicit agreement on the numerical upper limits on the throw weight and launching weight of non-heavy and heavy ICBMs. However, prior to making precise proposals the Delegation should submit for Washington approval a recommended approach on this issue.

5. The U.S. Delegation should bear in mind that the negotiating history has been that the U.S. has cited the SS-19 as the non-heavy ICBM currently possessing the largest throw weight.


Brent Scowcroft

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