

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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June 11, 1976

National Security Decision Memorandum 331

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, Geneva,
June 1, 1976

The following instructions for the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks beginning on June 1, 1976, in Geneva have been approved.

1. The Delegation should maintain the current U.S. JDT language referring to "bombers" to describe those aircraft which carry ASBMs.
2. The Delegation should maintain the position that the classification of future aircraft as heavy bombers should be determined through consultations on a case-by-case basis.
3. With respect to heavy bomber variants, the Delegation should request that the Soviets provide technical information which would support their contention that the Bear and Bison heavy bombers are readily distinguishable from the tanker, ASW, and reconnaissance variants of these aircraft and that conversion of these variants to heavy bombers would require a substantial period of time.
4. The Delegation should not raise the issue of a minimum range for those SLBMs whose launchers are to be covered by the agreement.
5. The Delegation should maintain the position that "throw weight" should be defined so as to include single-RV post boost vehicles.

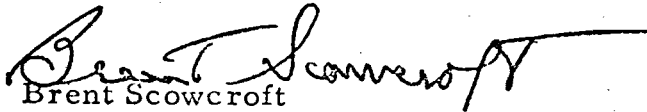
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Authority NSC letter 4/13/98

By Ut NLF Date 5/4/98

6. The Delegation is authorized to accept the term "light" to describe those ICBMs which do not satisfy the heavy ICBM definition, but such acceptance is conditioned on a satisfactory resolution of throw weight definition and heavy ICBM ceiling issues along the lines proposed by the U.S. The Delegation should also insert into the record a clear statement to the effect that the U.S. does not consider all "light" missiles as comparable. Thus, at some later point, we may return to the question of missile classifications.


Brent Scowcroft

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

