

→ *John* 7606559
NSOM 344

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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January 18, 1977

National Security Decision Memorandum 344

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 1 in the study, with modifications. The following table shows the approved five-year shipbuilding plan:

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Brent Scowcroft



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	<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

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