

Sen Sowers

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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January 25, 1975

National Security Study Memorandum 216

TO: The Secretary of Defense
The Attorney General
The Deputy Secretary of State
The Director, U.S. Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
The Administrator, Energy Research
and Development Administration

SUBJECT: National Security Aspects of Releasing Safeguard
Procedures and Data on Nuclear Materials

There have been recent requests for public release of unclassified information relating to safeguard procedures that are used to protect and account for nuclear materials and the results of these procedures. Such information could possibly assist terrorists or other groups in the diversion, misuse, or threat of misuse of nuclear material, and could, as well, have international consequences. The President has therefore directed that a study be made of the question of the release of such information.

The study should include but not be limited to a review of the following issues relating to the release of information.

- the types of information involved, its sensitivity, and the criticality of the timing of release;
- possible international consequences, including relations with IAEA and impact on our non-proliferation strategy;
- the applicable regulations, practices, and laws, especially the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act;
- the available bases and mechanisms for the control of information; and
- proposals for alternate courses of action, including possible guidelines for the release of information.

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The study shall be carried out by an Ad Hoc Group, chaired by a representative of the Administrator of Energy Research and Development and comprising representatives of the addressees. The study should be coordinated with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and forwarded to the President for his consideration no later than March 28, 1975.


Henry A. Kissinger *for*

cc: William A. Anders
Chairman, Nuclear
Regulatory Commission

Director of Central Intelligence

