National Security Study Memorandum 246

TO: The Secretary of State
    The Secretary of Defense
    The Assistant to the President for
    National Security Affairs
    The Director, Office of Management and Budget
    The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
    The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: National Defense Policy and Military Posture

I would like a thorough review and analysis of our national defense policy and military posture. This review should consider in detail the security and foreign policy impact of a range of alternative strategies for our strategic and general purpose forces.

The review should address but not necessarily be limited to the following:

-- The current and projected threat to the United States, its allies and U.S. security interests throughout the world.

-- Foreign policy objectives and definable trends which influence these objectives.

-- The overall defense posture necessary to assure U.S. security and foreign policy interests, including the desired balance between strategic and general purpose forces, manpower objectives, and preparedness.

-- Arms control considerations and implications.

-- Budgetary considerations and implications.

The study should be conducted under the aegis of the NSC Defense Review Panel. The study group should be composed of representatives of the
recipients of this memorandum and chaired by a representative of the Chairman of the NSC Defense Review Panel.

An interim report should be submitted for my consideration not later than November 15, 1976, and a final report not later than December 1, 1976.

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
    The Director, Selective Service System
    The Administrator, General Services Administration

[Signature]

SECRET (CFS)