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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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September 2, 1976

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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 interest 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

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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.

Gerald R. Ford

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

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