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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 3, 1974

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National Security Decision Memorandum 255

TO: The Secretary of Defense
The Deputy Secretary of State
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: Security and Other Aspects of the Growth and Dissemination
of Nuclear Power Industries

The President has reviewed the report of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee (USC), prepared in response to NSDM 235 and forwarded by the USC Chairman on April 5, 1974, outlining steps the United States could take with other nations concerning the problems associated with the increased availability of weapons useable materials from the growth and dissemination of nuclear power industries.

The President has approved the recommended consultations with other countries—particularly present or potential suppliers of materials, technology and equipment—with the objectives detailed in the USC report.

The initial consultations should emphasize but not necessarily be limited to the need for: (1) establishing agreed international guidelines, preferably based on U. S. practice, to ensure the physical security of weapons useable and highly toxic materials whether internationally transferred or indigenously produced; (2) reaching some common principles regarding the supply of sensitive enrichment technology or equipment; (3) avoiding or applying stricter terms for supply in situations where special hazards could be present; and (4) encouraging, where appropriate, multinational enrichment, fuel fabrication and reprocessing facilities.

The Department of State, in coordination with the Atomic Energy Commission (and other interested agencies when appropriate), will have primary responsibility for the conduct of these consultations and for reporting significant developments.

In addition, the President has directed that a prompt study of possible provisions for an international convention concerned with physical security

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guidelines be conducted by an Ad Hoc Group, chaired by a representative of the Atomic Energy Commission and comprising representatives of the addressees. In addition, the Ad Hoc Group should explore the idea of establishing better information exchange internationally on transfers of materials, equipment, or technology. The Ad Hoc Group's study should be forwarded by August 12, 1974 for the President's consideration.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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