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#26 report	NSC - A Net Evaluation Subcommittee Secret 5 pp.	7-1-58	A

FILE LOCATION

NSAM File, Box 6 NSAM 327 Discontinuance of Net Evaluation of NSC

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 18, 1965

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 327

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

THE CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
PLANNING

THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

THE CHAIRMAN, INTERDEPARTMENTAL
INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE

THE CHAIRMAN, INTERDEPARTMENTAL
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee
Of the National Security Council

The President has directed that the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council, having served its purpose, be discontinued effective this date. This directive supersedes NSC 5816.

McGeorge Bundy

McGeorge Bundy

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines / NSC memo 8-31-85
By rg, NARA, Date 12

~~TOP SECRET~~

Downgraded to Secret
per telecon, Brenda
Reger, NSC, 10-1-81
OCH

Mr. Smith

2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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McGeorge Bundy

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

-NSC memo 8/3/95

By *ly*, NARA, Date *12-15-95*

~~TOP SECRET~~

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per telecon Brenda
Reger, NSC, 10-1-81*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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McGeorge Bundy
McGeorge Bundy

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines / NSC memo 8/20/95
By ly, NARA, Date 12-15-95

Dispatched 3/18/65
Repts. #113-118
1 copy ea: NSC Files
C. Johnson
1 copy Col. Marshall
Paunderson, OSD 7/13 Rept. #280

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Pager, NSC, 10-1-81

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4

March 12, 1965

Martha:

I sent the letter signed by the
President accepting resignation
of Johnson to Colonel Bowman
with a note asking him to handle
(per McGB).

Dolores

orig. McNamee letter given to
Col. Bowman.
3/18

5

March 11, 1965

Dear General Johnson:

I accept your resignation with regret.

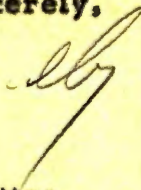
On the occasion of your second retirement from active duty, I join with many others in acknowledging your important contribution over the years to the security of the United States. When called back to the service of your country by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, you had already earned our highest military rank and the nation's highest recognition for military valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

For the past three years you have served the President and the National Security Council as the leader of a group dealing with the foremost problems of national security. In this role you have added to your previous military contributions the important service of providing the President with a clear-sighted, objective, and penetrating analysis of the status of our national defenses.

Your lifetime of service to your country during a critical period in history has been outstanding. On behalf of your countrymen, I express deep appreciation for all you have done.

With best wishes for the future,

Sincerely,



General Leon W. Johnson, USAF
Director, Net Evaluation Subcommittee
Washington, D. C., 20301

LBJ:McGB:du

6

A

2

B

8

March 11, 1965

Dear General Johnson:

I accept your resignation with regret.

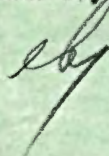
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Sincerely,



General Leon W. Johnson, USAF
Director, Net Evaluation Subcommittee
Washington, D.C., 20301

LBJ:McGB:du

~~TOP-SECRET~~

9
/

March 11, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council

Secretary McNamara recommends the discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council as part of his continuing effort to increase the efficiency and quality of various military study programs. (See McNamara memorandum at Tab A).

Mr. McNamara believes, and I agree, that the studies done each year by the Subcommittee since its establishment in 1958 can be done better by study groups in the Defense Department.

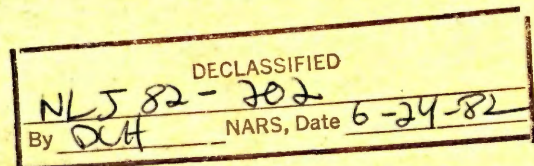
None of the other Departments and agencies involved in the Subcommittee's work object to its discontinuance.

Mr. McNamara is ready to move on his plan for a revised study system if the NESC is discontinued.

I recommend you approve Secretary McNamara's proposal and sign the attached letter accepting the resignation of General Johnson, the Director of the Subcommittee. (Tab B)

McG. B.

Attachments:
A & B as above



Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Speak to me _____

~~TOP-SECRET~~

Downgraded to
Secret per telegram
Brenda Reger, NSC,
10-1-81

~~TOP SECRET~~

10

March 11, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council

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McG. B.

Attachments:
A & B as above

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NLS 82-202	
By OCA	NARS, Date 6-24-82

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Sneak to me

~~TOP SECRET~~

Downgraded to
Secret per telecom,
Brenda Regan,
NSC, 10-1-81

When ret'd. for P3
go to C. Johnson to ¹¹
distribute to Holders.

Inform Col. Bowman.

11a

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

March 8, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of Net Evaluation Subcommittee (NESC)

all fine
hmp

This package includes

OK

1. A memorandum for the President from you asking his approval of Mr. McNamara's recommendation to discontinue the Net Evaluation Subcommittee.

OK

2. A draft letter from the President to General Johnson accepting his resignation with appropriate thanks. *If White House thinks appropriate, Gen. Wheeler will recommend Johnson for DSMedal.*

agree

3. A memorandum discontinuing the NESC to be sent if the President approves the action.

OK

Defense and JCS have reached an understanding as follows, according to Colonel Bowman:

- ✓ 1. NESC would be discontinued.
- ✓ 2. Studies similar to those done previously by the NESC would be carried out by Defense with State participation.
- ✓ 3. The NESC staff, minus General Johnson, would be used in preparing the new studies. The first such study is outlined in the attached paper. *(Tab B)*
- ✓ 4. The acceptance of General Johnson's resignation appears advisable because of the difficulty of using a ~~three~~ ^{four}-star general to head a study group within the JCS structure. This is ~~mandatory~~ ^{preferable}, Colonel Bowman believes.

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 NLS 82-202
 By DCH NARS, Date 6-28-82

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Downgraded to Secret per telecon, Brenda Regan, NSC, 10-1-81 DCH

TOP SECRET

-2-

The proposal is to be recommended because it not only makes possible the discontinuance of a mechanism which has outlived its usefulness, but also provides a way of obtaining the type of studies required by the current military situation.

Note: If you agree, the letter to General Johnson will be put on green before your memorandum to the President is sent up.

BKS

BKS

Attachments

TOP SECRET

12

DRFT
MEMO
TO
PRES.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

D (8/3/65)
R
A
F
T

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of
the National Security Council

Secretary McNamara recommends the discontinuance of the Net
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his continuing effort to increase the efficiency and quality of various
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by the Subcommittee since its establishment in 1958 can be done better
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None of the other Departments and agencies involved in the Subcommittee's
work object to its discontinuance.

Mr. McNamara is ready to move on his plan for a revised study system
if the NESC is discontinued.

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By DUH NARS, Date 6-28-82

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Reyer, NSC, 10-1-81 DCH

TOP SECRET

-2-

I recommend you approve Secretary McNamara's proposal and sign the attached letter accepting the resignation of General Johnson, the Director of the Subcommittee.

McGeorge Bundy

Attachment
Drft ltr

TOP SECRET

14

A.

15

DRFT
LTA TO
Gen.
Jensen

DRAFT

~~FEBRUARY 19, 1965~~

16

Dear General Johnson:

I accept your resignation with regret.

On the occasion of your second retirement from active duty, I join with many others in acknowledging your important contribution over the years to the security of the United States. When called back to the service of your country by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, you had already earned our highest military rank and the nation's highest recognition for military valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

For the past three years you have served the President and the National Security Council as the leader of a group dealing with the foremost problems of national security. In this role you have added to your previous military contributions the important service of providing the President with a clear-sighted, objective and penetrating analysis of the status of our national defenses.

Your lifetime of service to your country during a critical period in history has been outstanding. On behalf of your countrymen, I express deep appreciation for all you have done.

With best wishes for the future,

Sincerely,

DRAFT
NESC
DISCONTINUED

~~TOP SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

NET EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

8 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, NET EVALUATION
SUBCOMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Proposed NESC Study for 1965

In accordance with your instructions, attached hereto are the terms of reference for a study of the politico-military position of the U.S. vis a vis Communist China and other potentially hostile or disruptive forces in the Far East through 1971.

These terms were prepared by the staff of the NESC.

The terms would be applicable whether the study is pursued by the NESC staff or other agency.

Your approval is recommended.

LEON W. JOHNSON
General USAF
Director

1 Enclosure

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NLS 82-202	
-y DCH	NARS, Date 6-28-82

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Downgraded to
Secret per telecom,
Brenda Regen, NSC,
10-1-81 DCH

19

B

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
1965 NESC STUDY

A. THE PROBLEM

The NESC/NSC will examine the politico-military position of the United States vis-a-vis Communist China and other potentially hostile or disruptive forces in the Far East through 1971. It will identify problems which might arise and determine their impact on U.S. objectives, commitments and risks.

B. SCOPE AND APPROACH

The purpose of this study is to assist U.S. policy makers to reevaluate, in light of the changing U.S. security problems, the relevance and attainability of U.S. objectives in the Far East and the adequacy of present and projected planning concepts and means for achieving them.

The study will consider the ways in which political, economic and military factors might affect the aims, attitudes and freedom of action of the U.S., Communist China, and other nations in the Far East. Primary emphasis will be placed on identifying the ways in which Communist China or other hostile or disruptive forces might seek to bring power to bear to the detriment of U.S. security interests and, conversely, on assessing the ability of the U.S. to bring its own capabilities to bear effectively. Analytical means will be employed to the extent feasible.

C. MAIN LINES OF INQUIRY

1. The Over-all Power Balance in the Far East and Possible Developments through 1971. This will be a general conceptual

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By DUA	NARS, Date 6-28-82

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per telecon Brenda
Rosen, NSC, (10-1-82)

framework for the study consisting of an analysis of the present situation in the Far East, the ways in which it has changed since the offshore islands crisis of 1958, and the various significant ways in which the situation might develop in the next five or six years.

2. The Chinese Communist Potential. This will be an examination of Chinese Communist programs and capabilities through 1971 as they might support aspirations and objectives for continued enhancement of the Communist Chinese position. It will include consideration of their abilities to exert influence in other nations with respect especially to downgrading or eliminating U.S. influence. The various circumstance in which Chinese Communist military power might appear directly or indirectly applicable will be examined. A principal purpose will be to evaluate the utility of advanced weapons and other military assets the Chinese Communists are developing -- i.e. the kinds of usable options, for non-military as well as military purposes, which might be provided.

3. The U.S. Posture in the Far East. This aspect of the study will consider the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. position in the Far East. The principal aim will be to assess the over-all ability of the U.S. to deal with the Chinese Communists and their local allies at various levels of political and military confrontation using a variety of means for exerting influence.

4. The Role of U.S. Allies. This will be an examination of the present and potential contributions of U.S. allies and friends and of the impact of possible loss of support or denial of bases in the Far East.

5. The Soviet Role. Included will be an examination of probable Soviet attitudes toward various types of U.S. involvement with China or other Communist powers in the Far East. In

particular, the study will consider the problems of deterring or otherwise influencing the U.S.S.R. during periods of stress or actual hostilities with the Chinese.

6. Other Potentially Disruptive Factors. Consideration will be given to the potential effects of other factors on the U.S. position in the Far East. Included among these factors would be:

- a. A possible alliance between Indonesia and Communist China.
- b. The achievement of a nuclear capability by India or Japan.
- c. A general acceptance of Communist China into the family of nations.
- d. The possible development of increasingly independent orientations in such key countries as Japan.
- e. Communist Chinese exploitation of disruptive influences in other parts of the world -- e.g., political instability in Latin America and African nationalism.

7. Recapitulation and Appraisal. This would cover:

- a. Factors tending to strengthen the U.S. power position in Far East in the coming years.
- b. Factors tending to weaken the U.S. position in the Far East in the coming years.
- c. Measures the U.S. might take to improve its power position in Far East.
- d. Major problems with which U.S. politico-military plans and programs must be prepared to deal.
- e. Impact of U.S. actions which might tend to alienate or discourage allies and thus present possible obstacles in furthering U.S. objectives in the Far East.

RM/R File

21

SS#17932

TOP SECRET

JAN 28 1965

Dear Bob:

The Department of State has no objection to your raising with the President the question of discontinuing the Net Evaluation Subcommittee (NESC) of the National Security Council. The case you present in your draft memorandum of December 23 to the President is a persuasive one and the Department believes the President would be well advised to consider whether he wishes to retain the Subcommittee, at least in its present form.

The participation of representatives of this Department in the preparation of strategic studies at the working level has been useful to this Department. Therefore, it is hoped that arrangements can be made to continue such participation.

Moreover, although surveys such as the last NESC study may not qualify as a basis for planning guidance, the Department believes that a similar broad survey of a possible major conflict between the United States and Communist China could serve a useful purpose in clarifying issues and highlighting areas which could usefully be the object of more detailed consideration.

The Honorable
Robert S. McNamara,
Secretary of Defense.

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NLS 82-202
By DCU NARS, Date 6-28-82

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Group 3

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per telecom Breiden
Regr, NSC 1101181 DCU

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TOP SECRET

- 2 -

If you agree, we suggest that Ambassador Thompson meet soon with Mr. Vance and General Wheeler to discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

/s/ George W. Ball
Acting Secretary

S/S - RO

JAN 28 1964

A true copy of signed original

TOP SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

NET EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

28 January 1965

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

By letter dated December 27, 1961, President Kennedy appointed me Director of the Staff of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council. I have functioned in this capacity since that time.

In his letter of appointment President Kennedy stated that the NESC reports were considered by him personally. It was my honor and privilege to submit reports to President Kennedy in 1962 and 1963 and to give him personal briefings thereupon.

For the 1964 study you approved a problem relating to the current war plans as applied to the Soviet Bloc, even though this was somewhat at variance with the NESC Charter. This study was completed in early July, 1964. Whether or not it was presented to you personally I do not know.

The type of study called for by the original charter is not needed at this time, however, the research we have conducted for our studies leads me to believe that there is a need for a group such as this to conduct interagency studies on matters of vital interest to the security of the United States. I have recommended changes in the Charter of the NESC and have further recommended that the 1965 study be an examination of the politico-military significance of the emergence of Communist China upon the world scene.

In order that you may be free to choose your own Director, I respectfully submit my resignation as Director of the Staff of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee, effective at your discretion. I have so notified the Chairman of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee.

Respectfully,

Leon W. Johnson
LEON W. JOHNSON
General USAF
Director

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NLS 82-202	
By DCA	NARS, Date 6-28-82

C O P Y

23
/

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

December 27, 1961

Dear General Johnson:

Upon the nomination of the Chairman of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee, I hereby appoint you to serve as the Director of the Subcommittee's Staff in the preparation of the evaluation reports which are considered annually by me personally and by certain of my principal advisors. Your appointment will be effective on December 31, 1961, when General Hickey completes his tour of duty as Director.

This assignment furnishes you an opportunity to add to the distinguished service which you have already accorded your country. The task you face is an extremely important one in the interest of the nation, and I wish you every success in meeting it.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. F. Kennedy

General Leon W. Johnson, USAF
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

NESC

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

✓

~~TOP SECRET~~

25 January 1965

24

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Future of the NESC

Attached is a copy of General Wheeler's memo to Mr. McNamara in reply to the proposal to discontinue the NESC.



R. C. BOWMAN

Downgraded to Secret
per decision, Brennan
Reger, NSC, 12/1/68

~~TOP SECRET~~



TOP SECRET

L/Col Bowman

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2/4a

CM-392-65

23 JAN 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Revision of the NESC Charter (U)

**Reference: Multi Addressee Memorandum from the
Secretary of Defense, 23 December 1964**

1. I agree that the NESC Charter is out of date and have felt so for some time. I believe, however, that there is still a requirement for an official study group with interagency composition to evaluate broad aspects of national security.

2. If the proposal to discontinue the NESC is accepted, I suggest that certain NESC staff personnel be transferred to the Chairman's Special Studies Group. A division of the latter organization can then be organized to provide interagency participation in directed national security studies.

(Sgd) EARLE G. WHEELER

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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NLS 82-202
By *DCW* NARS, Date *6-24-82*

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per telecon Brenda Reager,
NSC 104-86 OCT*

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Page *1* of *1* Pages

TOP SECRET

21 January 1965

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25

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: The Future of the NESC

General Wheeler signed the memo to Secretary McNamara calling for revision of the NESC Charter; however, he carried it up in person and Mr. McNamara talked him out of delivering it.

I have now been asked to come up with a fall-back position which would recommend transferring the NESC personnel to the Special Studies Group.

I understand that Secretary Rusk's reply is still awaiting signature. If approved, it will recommend revision of the NESC Charter rather than abolition of the Subcommittee.

RCB

R. C. BOWMAN

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By DCH NARS, Date 6-28-82

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Reger, NSC, 10/1/81 DCH

TOP SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~TOP SECRET~~

17 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: NESC

General Wheeler has delivered the President's letter to General Leon Johnson, and award of the Distinguished Service Medal is under consideration.

There may be one remaining loose end. Martha does not believe that any action has been taken to implement the President's approval of Secretary McNamara's proposal (papers attached). If this is the case, I suggest you sign the attached NSAM.

OK
mfb

RCB

R. C. BOWMAN

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By DCH	NARS, Date 6-28-82

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per telecon, Brenda
Reger, NSC, 10/1/81 DCH

Raid
3/11/65
1:20 p.m.

16

28

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

March 11, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council

Secretary McNamara recommends the discontinuance of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council as part of his continuing effort to increase the efficiency and quality of various military study programs. (See McNamara memorandum at Tab A).

Mr. McNamara believes, and I agree, that the studies done each year by the Subcommittee since its establishment in 1958 can be done better by study groups in the Defense Department.

None of the other Departments and agencies involved in the Subcommittee's work object to its discontinuance.

Mr. McNamara is ready to move on his plan for a revised study system if the NESC is discontinued.

I recommend you approve Secretary McNamara's proposal and sign the attached letter accepting the resignation of General Johnson, the Director of the Subcommittee. (Tab B)

hcl. b.
McG. B.

Attachments:
A & B as above

Approved
Disapproved
Speak to me

DECLASSIFIED
NLS 82-202
By DCB NARS, Date 6-28-82

~~TOP SECRET~~
Downgraded to Secret
per telecon, Brenda
Reger, NSC, 10/1/81 DCH

~~TOP SECRET~~

652

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

29

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)

15 FEB 1965

By ing, NARS, Date 2-11-80

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Elimination of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council

As part of a continuing effort to increase the efficiency and quality of various study programs, I have for some time questioned the value of continuing the work of the Net Evaluation Subcommittee (NESC) of the National Security Council (established by NSC 5816).

When the NESC was established by President Eisenhower in 1958, neither the Joint Chiefs of Staff Organization nor the Office of the Secretary of Defense included a capability for performing the type of study assigned to the NESC. The original directive charged the NESC with providing "integrated evaluations of the net capabilities of the USSR, in the event of general war, to inflict direct injury upon the Continental United States and to provide a continual watch for changes which would significantly alter those net capabilities." Subsequent directives have altered this task on an annual basis. For example, the most recently completed NESC study was an evaluation of a "war conducted in 1964 between the U. S., its Allies, and the Soviet Bloc based on current U. S. war plans." Further, the over-all purpose of the report was to "evaluate the validity and feasibility of this type analysis as a basis for providing guidance for political-military planning...."

Having studied the 1964 Report, I do not feel that a brief survey of this type qualifies as a basis for planning guidance. As a broad survey of the problem, it is not without merit; but our strategic planning today is increasingly based upon more detailed studies of specific problem areas, such as those included on the Secretary of Defense's annual "Project List" and other studies conducted by the Joint Staff and military departments.

For example, the Special Studies Group (SSG) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has developed a broader base of expertise than that of the NESC staff. Both groups have explored similar issues, used the

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of 2 pages series A

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same sources of input, obtained the same computer support, and have performed the same type of analysis. Because of the close relationship of strategic studies to forces, the budget, and other on-going Defense Department studies, the usefulness of the SSG studies has been understandably greater than the annual survey of the NESC.

The economy involved in eliminating a major study group is obvious. We can, I feel, make better use of our limited study skills while simultaneously improving the product delivered to the consumer. Participation in DoD studies by other government agencies is, of course, welcomed when warranted by the subject matter. Similarly, we remain responsive to requests for study reports from other interested agencies of the government.

In summary, while the annual study program of the NESC had value and relevance in 1958, its contribution today is marginal when compared to the battery of specific studies which have become major functions of the JCS and DoD during the intervening years. It therefore appears logical to terminate the requirement for the NESC.

I have coordinated this proposal with George Ball, J. Edgar Hoover, John A. McCone, Glenn T. Seaborg, John F. Doherty, and General Wheeler, none of whom objects to the elimination of the NESC.

Attached is a draft implementing directive for signature.



Attachment

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Effective this date, the Net Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Security Council, having served its purpose, is discontinued. This directive supersedes NSC 5816.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)
By isp, NARS, Date 2-12-80

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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