

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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April 26, 1966

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 346

TO: ✓ The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
Administrator, National Aeronautics and
Space Agency
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Director, Office of Emergency Planning

SUBJECT: Assignment of Highest National Priority to
Critical Ammunition Items for South Vietnam and
the Mark 48 Torpedo (R&D only)

In response to the recommendation by the Secretary of Defense, the President, under authority granted by the Defense Production Act of 1950, today established the Mark 48 Torpedo (R&D only) and the following critical ammunition items (and related fuses) for South Vietnam as being in the highest national priority category:

Cartridge, 20mm, all types
Cartridge, 81mm, HE, M374
Cartridge, 81mm, ILL, M301A2
Cartridge, 105mm, ILL, M314A2
Bomb, 250 lb. MK 81
Bomb, 500 lb. MK 82
Bomb, 750 lb. M 117
Rocket, 2.75"

The President also approved removal of the following programs from the top national priority list: TITAN II, BMEWS, and PAL.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NSL 79F00059
By ing, NARA, Date 12-8-87

W W Rostow
W. W. Rostow

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for
resubmittal*

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bcc: Mr. Bill Moyers
 Mr. Keeny
 NSC files (2)
 Mr. Califano

W. W. Rostow

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Authority NSC 79 F00059
By [Signature], NARA, Date 12-8-87

THE WHITE HOUSE
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Authority NSC 79F00059By W. W. Rostow, NARA. Date 12-8-87

W W Rostow
W. W. Rostow

I copy ea to: C. Johnson
NSC Files

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Dispatched 4/26/66 - Rcpts. nos. 119-126

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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April 26, 1966

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM Joe Califano

Bob McNamara called me at home this morning saying that he urgently needs approval of this memorandum and asked me to bring it to your attention this morning.

J.C.
N
12/1/66

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 26, 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

Walt --

Joe Califano called me this morning (9:45) and asked me to rush to him the attached memo from McNamara requesting DX priority for ammunition for South Vietnam since McNamara had just asked him whether the recommended action had been approved. I told Califano that we were preparing a NSAM to implement the action and that you would send it up to the President this morning with a covering memo.

He also wanted to know where the memo had been for the last week. I told him that I received it on Friday (April 22) and had been staffing it with the BOB which had not cleared the action until last night.

I did not make any specific arrangements with Califano as to how your memo to the President would be handled; however, you might want to send it to the President through him. If not, I would send him a copy (attached) of the correspondence.

Spurgeon
Spurgeon

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

16 APR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Request for Highest National Priority for Ammunition
for South Vietnam and Mark 48 Torpedo (R&D only)

The programs that now enjoy the highest national priority and the resultant use of the automatic DX industrial priority rating are: TITAN II, BMEWS, PAL, DEFENDER, POLARIS/POSEIDON, NIKE ZEUS/X, 390, MINUTEMAN, 437AP, FOUR LEAVES, APOLLO, CENTAUR and the Supersonic Transport (R&D). Of these, the first ten are managed by the Department of Defense, APOLLO and CENTAUR by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Supersonic Transport (R&D) by the Federal Aviation Agency. The prescribed criterion under which the President has made these determinations is that the programs have key political, scientific, psychological, or military objectives. The Department of Defense recommends that certain critical ammunition, required for use in South Vietnam or training thereof, as detailed below, and the R&D phase of the Mark 48 Torpedo be approved for addition to the list. In order to keep the DX industrial priority limited, and thus meaningful, the deletion of TITAN II, BMEWS and PAL from the top national priority list is also recommended.

The dollar values of the critical ammunition items urgently needed to carry out our military mission in South Vietnam and the R&D phase of the Mark 48 Torpedo are:

	Million Dollar Value	
	FY66	FY67
Cartridge, 20mm, all types	159.5	295.9
Cartridge, 81mm, HE, M374	111.3	52.9
Cartridge, 81mm, ILL, M301A2	25.6	15.1
Cartridge, 105mm, ILL, M314A2	28.3	11.2
Bomb, 250 lb. MK 81	182.1	174.9
Bomb, 500 lb. MK 82	354.4	295.5
Bomb, 750 lb. M 117	231.0	103.8
Rocket, 2.75"	404.0	315.8
Torpedo, MK 48 (R&D only)	46.8	34.9
TOTAL	1,543.0	1,300.0

Assignment of top national priority is necessary to meet compressed schedules by preventing these programs from encountering shortages of critical machine tools, materials, subassemblies and components.

DECLASSIFIED

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

By *isp* NARS, Date *2-12-80*

Robert S. McNamara

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Sec. 1.2.1.1 - 1241

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