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March 23, 1964

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 292

TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: TFX

Examination of the relation of the TFX to NATO planning and deployment reveals that if this plane is added to European-based inventories, serious questions will arise with respect to NATO strategic planning, the utility of alternative weapons systems, and possible Soviet reaction to a long-range nuclear capable system. It is clearly important that the policy and purpose of the United States with respect to this aircraft in the European theater be carefully considered before discussions of its possible use in this theater are initiated with our allies.

The President has therefore directed that this problem be carefully reviewed by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, and that preliminary recommendations be presented not later than April 20 for discussion with the President on April 21.

While these studies are proceeding, and pending the establishment of governmental policy in this matter, it is requested that the Department of Defense suspend all briefings and sales negotiations on the TFX with non-U. S. agencies, governmental or otherwise. This request does not apply to discussions with Australia and Canada.

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McGeorge Bundy

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cc:

Mr. Bundy
Mr. Klein
Col. Smith
Mr. Johnson
NSC Files

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 93-07

By ing, NARA, Date 11-19-92