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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

22 JUN 1979
In reply refer to:
I-35173/79

POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY TO THE DCI FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
SUBJECT: IC Staff Study on Intelligence Support to Strategic Forces

I have reviewed your recent study on "Intelligence Support to Strategic Forces" and would like to point out my general problem with the report. My basic concern is with the assumption that threads its way through the paper that our current nuclear employment policy is basically compatible with the intelligence support that backs it up. This is simply not true. To a large measure, our employment policy is a reflection of the quality of intelligence, and the inadequacies in the latter tend to be reflected in targeting plans themselves.

350.09

It is true as you assert that our current employment policy can be characterized by pre-planned attacks on fixed targets. It is a gross oversimplification, however, to conclude on the basis of this that the SIOP is "static" and that so long as it remains so only marginal improvements in intelligence support are required. The SIOP is, in fact, quite dynamic even now; it provides among other things for real-time replanning procedures which the NCA could implement prior to, during, or in the aftermath of a nuclear exchange.

[Redacted]

25X5, E.O.13526

These intelligence capabilities and resources are grossly inadequate at present and are generally recognized as such.

As noted in your study, our nuclear employment policy and the intelligence requirements for the secure Reserve Force are currently under NSC consideration. We expect certain modifications to our policy as a consequence, and this is likely to generate additional intelligence requirements. I will keep you abreast of these developments, but in the meantime, members of my staff would be pleased to discuss your study in greater detail.

SIGNED

Daniel J. Murphy
Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Deputy

Cy # 3 of 5 cys

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Prepared by MRRHStivers/21Jun79/gaj