

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4 February

MEMO FOR LTC Cade, Executive Assistant to ASD(I)

Mr. Ellsworth opposes a Minuteman Launch on warning demonstration at this time. Please ensure that his view is conveyed to the appropriate decision level.

G. M. Carter

G. M. CARTER
CAPTAIN, USN
MILITARY ASSISTANT

cc: Mr. Jordan, Acting ASD/ISA
Dr. Wade, SALT Task Force

DECLASSIFIED JUL 24 2008
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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTELLIGENCE

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30 JAN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ELLSWORTH
DF MR. LATIMER
MR. GOULDER
SUBJECT: Minuteman Launch on Warning Demonstration (U) -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

The Air Force has contracted for the development of an operational plan for a Minuteman Launch on warning demonstration. The demonstration would be a Minuteman operational training launch from Vandenberg in response to a [redacted] detection of a Soviet missile launch. Test objectives would be demonstration of a Minuteman launch reaction time less than the nominal 25 minute flight time of a Soviet ICBM attacking the U.S.

OSD 3.3(b)(1)

This demonstration would add credibility to the statements in the SECDEF Posture Statement last year and this year stating that we have a launch on warning capability. Such a demonstrated capability could mitigate arguments on the low survivability of Minuteman in the face of increasing Soviet ICBM throw weight and accuracy. On the negative side, it could revive emotional responses in Congress to discussion of "Launch on Warning!"

350.05

Tom Reed is apparently guiding the demonstration planning. You may wish to discuss timing and/or SALT implications with him.

Wallace D. Henderson
Wallace D. Henderson
Director, Indications
and Warning

~~Exempt from automatic
downgrading and
declassification
by NSA/ISS
Chief, Domestic Security Division, WHS~~

~~EXEMPT FROM EO 13526, Sec 3.4 (b) (1)
OSD F. S. LIC. Date 24 Dec 2008 25-10
Review/Declassify On: 25 Dec 2026 -01
Other Agency Review: TRD~~

Classified by DoD Dir S-5200 17 (A-2)
Exempt from GDS of EO 13526, Cat. III
Declassify: Date cannot be determined.

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I-3504 7/76

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SEP 73

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~~TOP SECRET~~ INFORMATION COVER SHEET

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3504776

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