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WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE NRO STAFF

November 20, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL ALLEN

SUBJECT: SALT Progress Report

This report is based upon my reading of the message traffic from Washington to Helsinki and from Helsinki to Washington. It does not include information contained in several "Eyes Only" messages which have been sent to individuals like Kissinger, Rogers, Wheeler, Farley, etc.

In general, it appears that the U.S. delegation is fairly optimistic about the talks based upon their initial contacts and meetings with the Soviets. The Soviets have made no concrete or specific proposals, nor have we. Gerard Smith did, however, describe what he calls "illustrative basic elements." These are things such as limiting the number of fixed ICBM launches, limiting the number of fixed SSBM launches, or combining thereof, limiting ABMs, etc. Smith was quite cautious in stating that these are illustrations only and do not represent a concrete U.S. proposal nor do they really represent the range of U.S. interest. It is interesting to note from both the U.S. and Soviet statements so far, an absence of polemics. Indicative of the absence was a statement by Semenov to the effect that the talks should not concern themselves with who started the arms race, but rather the substantive question of how to limit it. I am told this is a significant departure from previous Soviet positions in disarmament meetings. A contingency paper on verification problems was forwarded to the delegation. In essence, it follows very closely along the lines of the DCI's guidelines, which you have seen, and discusses national means of verification generically.

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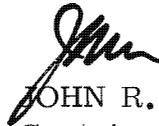
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The paper also instructs the delegation to develop a negotiating history to the effect that neither side will impede the operation of the other's means of verification.

In summary, the position paper generally represents previously established ideas and positions.

We will keep you informed from time to time on further progress.



JOHN R. MECEDA
Captain, USAF

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