

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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National Security Decision Memorandum

TO: The Secretary of Defense
 The Director, Bureau of the Budget
 The Director, Selective Service

SUBJECT: Draft Reform and The Reduction of Draft Calls

Following the NSC meeting of March 24th, the President has decided to plan on reducing draft calls to zero between July 1972 and July 1973 while carrying out interim draft reforms.

1. Conditions

The President has decided that future reductions in draft calls shall be subject to the following conditions:

-- the maintenance of active and reserve forces at levels consistent with the President's strategic and fiscal guidance;

-- the extension of induction authority beyond its current expiration date of July 1, 1971;

-- the availability of adequate funds to meet our timetable for ending draft calls.

The President wishes the Department of Defense to advise him when and if these conditions are not met, and to recommend changes, as necessary, in the implementation plan outlined below.

2. Implementation

To implement his decision, the President has directed that the Department of Defense take the following steps:

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

By SPU Date 7/21/98

-- during FY 1971, increase the pay of first-term enlisted men by 20 percent (\$300 million) to demonstrate our tangible commitment to the zero draft call concept.

-- during FY 1972, plan a larger commitment of funds (\$2.0 billion) toward substantially reducing draft calls.

-- during FY 1973, plan larger expenditures (\$3.5 billion) in the expectation that draft calls should be ended between July 1972 and July 1973.

Within this framework, the President wishes the Department of Defense, in coordination with the other addressee agencies, to prepare a detailed annual plan of the source, composition, and timing of expenditures necessary to reduce draft calls to zero between July 1972 and July 1973. This plan shall be prepared by September 1 of each year for the following fiscal year and submitted to the President.

3. Draft Reform

The President has also decided to take the following actions on draft reform:

-- Request the Congress to permit the Selective Service to induct men according to their random sequence number.

-- Request the Congress to restore discretionary authority over undergraduate student deferments to the President. Then issue an Executive Order providing that those students, who do not now hold II-S deferments, would not be granted such deferments in the future. Students in two year colleges and apprentices should be treated similarly.

-- Continue to bar graduate student deferments except for students in medical and allied specialties for which DOD will require a special draft call.

-- Issue an Executive Order phasing out occupational, agricultural, and paternity deferments. A man not now holding one of these deferments would not be granted one in the future.

The President has decided he will take action independent of the Congress in issuing an Executive Order to phase out occupational, agricultural, and paternity deferments. At the same time, the Congress will be requested to make provision for the other reforms outlined above.

4. Induction Authority

The President has decided to defer his decision until next year on the following:

-- The extension of authority for general inductions and the doctor's draft.

-- The establishment of an effective standby draft.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of State
The Director, Office of Emergency
Preparedness
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff