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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

From: Henry A. Kissinger
General Goodpaster

The State Department is proposing a change in NSDM 2 that would require policy papers prepared by NSC Interdepartmental Groups for the NSC to be transmitted through the Secretary of State to the NSC Review Group.

This arrangement is in basic conflict with the concept of direct channels of tasking and response between Interdepartmental Groups and the NSC Review Group, which was the basis on which we proposed retaining the IRG's. It is inconsistent with a strong NSC system in several ways:

1. Unless transmittal were purely pro forma, and hence meaningless, it would carry the power to review, to return for revision, or to re-schedule all functions that should lie with the NSC machinery.
2. The proposal thus retains the idea of State Department control over what reaches the President in the NSC, and when.
3. When the Secretary reviews the substance of the paper in transmitting it, his action freezes the position of the State Department man on the NSC Review Group, which should be free to examine papers from a broad Presidential perspective.
4. The proposed arrangement constricts the Interdepartmental Groups in preparing policy papers to the scope and context of State Department functions, rather than giving them, fully and directly, the broader perspective of Presidential security concerns.

(Please note that this proposal does not involve operational aspects of "interdepartmental activities of the US Government overseas," for which you have assigned responsibility to the Secretary of State. This proposal relates to policy papers.)

In overall effect, the proposal would keep the issue open as to whether you are going to have a State Department oriented system rather than an NSC oriented system. To make clear it is to be an NSC oriented system, the proposal should be rejected.