

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 2, 1972

National Security Decision Memorandum 165

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of Commerce
 The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
 The Director of Central Intelligence
 The President's Science Adviser

SUBJECT: International Aspects of Weather Modification

The President has reviewed the Under Secretaries Committee's report on international aspects of weather modification, as forwarded by the Chairman's memorandum of February 12, 1972, and has considered the views of the interested agencies.

In continuing to advance civilian weather modification research and development efforts and to apply this technology for human benefit, the President has decided that:

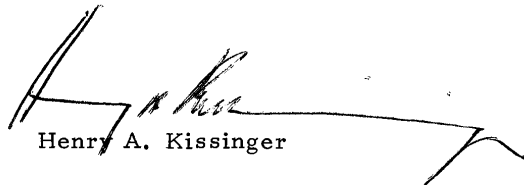
- The United States shall further international cooperation and understanding in this rapidly developing field and conduct its programs with maximum openness and within the framework of clearly established operational and procedural safeguards designed to protect the interests of the United States and of other countries.
- The United States will not encourage requests by other countries for assistance in the conduct of operations involving a high risk of damage or where the effects cannot be foreseen with reasonable assurance. With regard to assisting other countries, each request for assistance shall be considered on the basis of its own merits.
- The United States shall continue research bearing on climate modification, but no climate modification operation (civilian or military) shall be conducted until its total impact can be predicted with great assurance and without the specific approval of the President.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-- The NSC Under Secretaries Committee shall be responsible for continuing review of the international aspects of weather modification generally and of U.S. activities affecting other countries or outside U.S. territory, for instituting and overseeing implementation of appropriate guidelines for such U.S. activities, for reviewing any requests from other countries for assistance in weather modification activity, and for reporting any policy issues for the President's decision. For these purposes representatives of other interested agencies will participate.

The President has decided not to propose at this time legislation for the licensing and regulation of weather modification activities.

The President has decided to defer decision on the matter of policy governing military aspects of weather modification.



Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of Interior
The Secretary of Agriculture
The Administrator, Agency for International Development
The Director, National Science Foundation