

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Bowers to Smith 09/06/2002

By LS Date 02/14/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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June 15, 1972

National Security Decision Memorandum 171

TO:           The Secretary of State  
              The Secretary of Defense  
              The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare

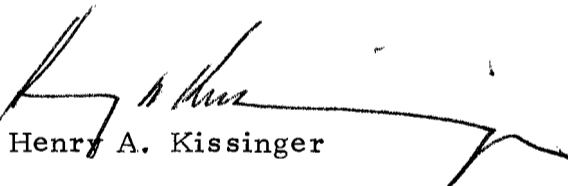
SUBJECT:     Russian Request for Samples of the Lassa Virus

Having reviewed the memorandum of May 26, 1972 from the Acting Chairman of the Under Secretaries Committee, the President has decided that:

-- A sample of the Lassa virus should be made available to qualified researchers in the Soviet Union.

-- The offer of the virus should be made as part of a larger U. S. proposal for a cooperative virological research program to be carried out in keeping with the understandings reached during the March 27-31 meeting of the US-USSR Joint Committee for Health Cooperation under the aegis of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Cooperation in the Field of Medical Science and Public Health signed in Moscow on May 23, 1972.

-- The Department of Health, Education and Welfare will work with other interested U. S. departments and agencies and with the Soviet Ministry of Health to bring such a program into being.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director, Office of Science & Technology  
      The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency  
      The Director, United States Information Agency

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