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NSC/Sowers to Smith 09/06/2002

By LR Date 01/31/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SECRET/NODIS

February 26, 1970

National Security Study Memorandum 90

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: US Interests in and Policy Toward the Mediterranean Area

The President wishes to expand NSC consideration of Mediterranean problems beyond those issues cited in NSSM 87 (North Africa) and in NSSM 88 (Northern Mediterranean).

Accordingly, he directs that the NSSMs 87 and 88 studies be placed in the context of political developments in the Mediterranean basin as a whole, including the Eastern Mediterranean. Particular emphasis should be given to how US interests in this area will be affected over the next several years.

The study should include consideration of Soviet objectives, policies and prospects and how they affect our interests, and French objectives, policies and prospects and how they affect our interests.

The President wishes to discuss the feasibility of developing policy options with respect to our interests in the area as a whole or in appropriate segments of it. He wishes to examine ways of improving the interrelationship of our programs and policies in individual countries in the Mediterranean area. Policy options should take account of political, economic and military considerations.

The President has directed that this study be prepared by an ad hoc group chaired by a representative of the Secretary of State and including representatives of the addressees of this memorandum and the NSC staff. Work already completed or underway in response to NSSM 88 may be incorporated in the study requested by the present NSSM.

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The completed study should be submitted to the NSC Review Group by Monday, March 16, 1970.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff