

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

*NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002*  
By LR Date 02/13/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET~~

November 18, 1972

National Security Study Memorandum 164

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Secretary of Commerce  
The Secretary of the Treasury  
The Secretary of Agriculture

SUBJECT: United States Relations with Europe

The President has directed the preparation of a basic study of our relations with Europe, with particular focus on Western Europe. The study should examine the goals we should strive for over the next four years, and the priorities that should govern our policies. Under each major aspect of our relations with Europe -- political, economic, military, security, scientific -- major issues that will arise in the next year or so should be identified and discussed. The interrelationship of issues should be examined. A range of options for dealing with these issues should be analyzed in terms of advantages and disadvantages.

The purpose of this study is to provide the President with a framework within which he can make basic decisions on the relative priorities to be accorded the elements in our overall policy toward Europe and to provide guidance on the specific issues within this context.

The study should be prepared by the NSC Interdepartmental Group for Europe, comprising representatives of the recipients of this memorandum and of the NSC staff. The President regards this study as of prime importance and he has directed that it be given priority attention. It should be forwarded by January 1 for consideration by the NSC Senior Review Group.

On the basis of the President's decisions, there will be a need for a series of further studies to implement Presidential guidance.

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO  
YEAR INTERVALS AND DECLASSIFIED ON DEC. 31, 1980

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The existence of this directive and the content of the study must be regarded as extremely sensitive. All officials involved will see to it that proper security precautions are taken to avoid public speculation about changes in our European policy.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Director of Central Intelligence  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency  
Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs