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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 16, 1982

*National Security Decision
Directive Number 31*

UNITED STATES POLICY
ON
MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS

This directive approves a new approach to mutual and balanced force reductions in Europe (MBFR).

The United States will propose a single comprehensive MBFR agreement to include a binding commitment by the participants of the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Pact to achieve equality of conventional forces in Europe at lower levels through substantial, militarily significant and verifiable reductions of forces. This proposal will contain the following elements:

- A single agreement binding all participants to reductions in stages to a common collective ceiling for each side of about 700,000 ground force personnel and about 900,000 ground and air force personnel combined;
- Separate subceilings for United States and Soviet ground force personnel only within the combined collective ceiling;
- First stage reductions by the United States and the Soviet Union of 13,000 and 30,000 ground force personnel, respectively;
- United States reductions in the first stage occurring two-thirds in units and sub-units and one-third in individuals and Soviet reductions in the first stage occurring in divisions;
- Verification of reductions and residual ceilings at each stage of reductions;
- Associated stabilization and verification measures applying to all participants prior to or at the time of the first United States and Soviet reductions as an integral part of the agreement; and
- Agreement on current data and counting criteria for the forces of both sides prior to signature of the agreement.


Partially Declassified/Released on 7/27/90
under provisions of E.O. 12356-
by F. Grubbs, National Security Council

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2002
Classified and Extended by William P. Clark
Reason for Extension: NSC 1.13(e)

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In support of United States policy on mutual and balanced force reductions, the Government is directed to:

- Seek the concurrence of the North Atlantic Alliance to the new approach;
 - Submit recommendations on the timing of the presentation of the new approach at the MBFR talks in Vienna; and
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