

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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~~TOP SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

March 10, 1978

Presidential Directive/NSC-33

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
The Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBJECT: Arms Control for Anti-satellite (ASAT) Systems (C)

Reference is made to National Security Advisor memorandum, dated September 23, 1977, subject as above.

I direct removal of the restriction, cited in the reference memorandum, on operational or space based testing. The Secretary of Defense is authorized to pursue, for planning purposes, a U.S. ASAT development program encompassing that testing in space or against U.S. objects in space deemed essential to achieve an ASAT capability.

Our future dialogue with the Soviets on Space Arms Control should indicate that we intend to seek an ASAT capability as soon as possible unless they are willing to take very positive actions to preclude such a move on our part.

All other elements of the referenced memorandum remain in effect at this time.


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Declassify on: OADR

Declassified/Released on 7-11-94
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council

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