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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION S/S-0:

January 19, 1978

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Presidential Directive/NSC - 27

TO: The Secretary of State

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- ALSO:
- The Secretary of the Treasury
 - The Secretary of Defense
 - The Attorney General
 - The Secretary of the Interior
 - The Secretary of Commerce
 - The Secretary of Transportation
 - The Secretary of Energy
 - The Director of Central Intelligence
 - The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
 - The Director, U.S. Information Agency
 - The Director, Federal Preparedness Agency

SUBJECT: Procedures for Dealing with Non-Military Incidents

The President has directed that uniform and clearly understood procedures be established within the United States Government for dealing with various types of non-military incidents which could have an adverse impact upon the conduct of our foreign relations.

To assist the Special Coordination Committee in ensuring that the government's decisions are reached expeditiously and that the views of all concerned Departments and Agencies, as well as considerations of both domestic law and foreign policy, are brought together in reaching a decision, the Department of State will have primary responsibility to coordinate government planning and public statements for dealing with such incidents and will keep the White House fully informed throughout.

The following basic procedures shall be observed in dealing with such incidents:

- All Departments and Agencies in receipt of this Directive are hereby charged to maintain a 24-hour watch supervised by a responsible officer, or such other comparable mechanism as will in the opinion of the Department/Agency and the Department of State be adequate to achieve the objectives of this Directive. It will be the responsibility of this watch to advise the Department of State Operations Center of incidents that are developing in a way that could impact adversely upon the conduct of US foreign relations. Actions already taken or under way by law enforcement agencies will be reported to the Department of State Operations Center, along with those agencies' recommendations for dealing further with the incidents.

- The Department of State Operations Center will promptly inform appropriate officers of the Department of State and other Agencies concerned and the White House Situation Room of such incidents and will assure timely communication to the Situation Room of information concerning an incident and its development, proposed courses of action intended by the Departments and Agencies concerned, and actions already taken. In the event of interagency disagreement, the Department of State Operations Center will brief the Watch Officers of interested Agencies on the interagency differences and the considerations on which they are based, and will afford these Agencies the opportunity for further comment. The Operations Center will then refer to the White House for final decision the recommendations of interested Agencies. The Operations Center will inform the White House of:
(a) any major disagreement among the Agencies, or (b) any known intention of a senior official of an interested Agency to express the views of that Agency directly to the White House.

- As responsibility for the coordination of Intelligence Community operations will continue to be that of the Director of Central Intelligence, the Operations Center will ensure that the DCI is also promptly notified of such incidents.

- The Operations Center will also ensure that there are full consultations with interested law enforcement agencies at each step of a developing incident in order that those agencies may properly carry out their law enforcement responsibilities.

- The Department of State Operations Center is charged with the timely transmittal to the relevant Departments and Agencies of directives received from the White House.
- Where it is decided to take an action or to refrain from an action based primarily on considerations of foreign policy, the Department of State will coordinate with other interested Departments and Agencies in developing public statements regarding the actions or inaction of the United States Government and in transmitting appropriate press guidance to Agencies requesting it. When requested by the relevant law enforcement authorities, every effort will be made by the Department of State to transmit to them appropriate press guidance on such incidents at the same time that a government decision is made.

Each Department or Agency in receipt of this Directive shall cooperate fully with the Department of State in the discharge of its responsibilities under this Directive. The Department of State, for its part, will take appropriate steps to ensure that it carries out its responsibilities under this Directive as expeditiously as possible, particularly in meeting the concerns of those Agencies charged with law enforcement.

Nothing in this Directive is intended to alter or restrict the statutory or other existing authority of any Department or Agency for the enforcement of the laws of the United States.

NSDM 207 is hereby rescinded.



Zbigniew Brzezinski