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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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May 19, 1977

Presidential Review Memorandum/NSC-27

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TO: The Vice President  
The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense

ALSO: The Director, Arms Control and  
Disarmament Agency  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Director, Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Chemical Warfare (C)

The President has directed that the Special Coordination Committee undertake a review of the US chemical warfare (CW) posture with a view toward developing CW arms limitation options.

The review shall include:

1. An assessment of the nature and trends of the CW threat, to be prepared by the Intelligence Community.
2. A definition of alternative military strategies for deterring CW, and limiting its effect if deterrence fails. Each strategy description shall include an evaluation of:
  - supporting force postures and programs, including costs.
  - associated military risks
  - US and allied technological capabilities, and military and social constraints
  - impact on US allies
  - effect of use on military operation including incentives for first use of chemicals
3. An evaluation of arms limitation options. Analysis shall include consideration of:

Declassified/Released on 12/4/91  
under provisions of E.O. 12356  
by S. Tiley, National Security Council  
(F 88-264)

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- net effect on US security, including impact on US Allies
- contribution to US-Soviet relations and to other foreign policy interests
- verification and compliance requirements
- possibilities for successful negotiation

The review shall be completed by June 1 and shall not exceed 25 pages.

*Zbigniew Brzezinski*

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