May 19, 1977

Presidential Review Memorandum/NSC-27

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:

   -- 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:
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