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August 24, 1978

Presidential Review Memorandum/NSC-42

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

ALSO: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U.S. Strategy for Non-military Competition with
the Soviet Union (S)

Pursuant to the August 15 meeting of the National Security Council, the President has directed preparation of a Presidential Review Memorandum on U.S. strategy for non-military competition with the Soviet Union. The PRM should develop strategy options and initiatives designed to enhance and maintain the United States position vis-a-vis the Soviets in the global balance. It should consider the steps that might be taken in critical geographic areas of US/Soviet competition to limit and reduce Soviet influence and actions which: diminish the prospects for moderate solutions to local conflicts and undermine moderate governments; and which negatively affect the overall US/Soviet balance. The PRM should also consider how best to mobilize and apply our economic and technological advantages in the competition with the Soviet Union.

The PRM should, in particular:

- Develop a strategic concept to guide U.S. strategy in regard to our relations with three key areas: Western Europe, Saudi Arabia and Iran; China, Japan; and South Korea.
- Examine the areas -- on a country-by-country basis -- where there may be a particular problem or opportunity regarding the U.S. and Soviet positions -- political, trade, or military influence.
- Examine what initiatives the U.S. might take, what the problems are, what key Congressional support is required, and how to ensure public support for our efforts.

The PRM should be prepared by an interagency working group led by the Department of State for consideration by the PRC chaired

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by the Secretary of State. The PRM should be submitted for PRC consideration and recommendations to the President by October 2, 1978.

Dissemination of this directive and participation in the PRM should be restricted as much as possible.



Zbigniew Brzezinski

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