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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Policy on Chemical and Biological
Weapons

We have reviewed Don Hornig's Memorandum For The President of February 14, 1967, in which he recommends that the President make a statement that we have a "no first use" policy with regard to chemical and biological warfare, with the exception of riot gases and herbicides.

While I agree that a statement along the lines proposed by Don would be appropriate, I would like to have the opportunity to review the exact statement proposed for use by the President before it is finally approved.

I perceive only one obstacle to clearing a statement within the government. This is the Department of Defense view that we should keep open the option for first use of incapacitating weapons until we have better information concerning incapacitating agents, their military effectiveness, and the political consequences of their use. In the absence of a convincing case that retaining this option is vital to the national security, I doubt that the potential advantages outweigh the probable political and public opinion costs, domestic and foreign.

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By isa, NARS, Date 11-1-83

Richard W. Long
Acting Secretary

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