



March 21, 1969
National Security Study Memorandum 33,
'Contingency Planning for the Middle East'

Citation:

"National Security Study Memorandum 33, 'Contingency Planning for the Middle East'", March 21, 1969, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "From the Six Day War to Yom Kipper: Selected US Documents on the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1969-1973," a briefing book prepared for the international workshop, "New Evidence on the Arab-Israeli Conflict" (Wilson Center, June 11, 2007). <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/220080>

Summary:

Instructions to prepare a number of studies for various contingencies in the Middle East, including renewed Arab-Israeli conflict, crises related to Jordan, and US-Soviet confrontation.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 21, 1969

SECRETNational Security Study Memorandum 33TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

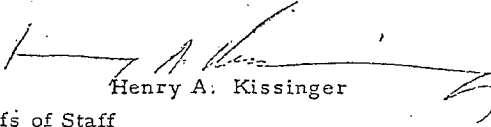
SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for the Middle East

The President has directed the preparation of studies for various contingencies in the Middle East. As directed in the guidelines for contingency planning these papers should include a careful orchestration of political and military actions. These studies should be performed by the Near East Interdepartmental Group and should be submitted to the Review Group by the dates indicated below:

-- Resumption of Arab-Israeli Hostilities. This should examine possible U.S. actions in the event of renewed conflict in the Middle East provoked by either the Arabs or Israel. It should assume that the USSR and the US do not become involved to the extent of engaging in actual hostilities in support of either side. (May 23, 1969)

-- Jordan. This should explore the most likely crises as a result of internal or external pressures. (April 4, 1969)

-- Possible US-Soviet Confrontation. This should cover contingencies relating to accidental or deliberate direct Soviet involvement in the Mideast which could lead toward US-USSR confrontation. (April 25, 1969)


Henry A. Kissingercc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director, United States Information AgencySECRET

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Authority EO 12958By R.J. NARA Date 10-28-04