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April 12, 1982

National Security Study  
Directive Number 8-82

U.S. STRATEGY TOWARDS THE HORN OF AFRICA

Introduction

This National Security Study Directive establishes the terms of reference for a review of U.S. strategy toward the Horn countries, based on an assessment of the U.S. position in the region in light of current military, political and economic trends and an examination of available instruments of U.S. influence. The Horn countries are Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti; the review should also consider related U.S. interests in adjacent countries such as Kenya, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. The focus of the review should be the period from now through FY-85. (S)

Objective of Review

To produce a National Security Decision Directive (NSDD),  
Subject: U.S. Strategy on Horn of Africa, for consideration by the National Security Council and, in turn, for decision by the President. (S)

Scope

The review will include, as a minimum, the following topics:

- U.S. objectives in the Horn, importance of the Horn to U.S. interests and relation to U.S. objectives in other areas, particularly North Africa, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.
- Assessment of current policies and resources in terms of priority of U.S. interests and achievement of U.S. objectives. This will include a review of MDB lending policies toward the Horn countries.

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Review April 12, 2002

Classified and Extended by William P. Clark  
Reason for Extension: NSC 1.13(a)

Declassified on 3-11-96  
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council  
E88-686

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- Major threats to U.S. interests; possible means of dealing with them; time constraints:
  - Military situation in Ethiopia and Somalia, including Soviet and Cuban presence.
  - Political, economic and military weakness of Somalia.
  - Tensions arising from Somali irredentism, including effect on Kenya.
  - Libyan subversive activity against Sudan and Somalia through Ethiopia.
- Attitudes and possible constructive involvement of European allies and other U.S. partners in the Horn.
- Congressional and U.S. domestic opinion on the Horn, with steps needed to gain policy support.
- Alternatives to current approach; costs and advantages. (S)

Administration

Management of the NSSD review will be the responsibility of an interagency group chaired by the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa with an NSC Staff Officer serving as coordinator, and with representation at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level from the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Treasury, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget. The group will reports its findings to the National Security Council not later than May 20, 1982. (S)

All matters relating to this NSSD will be classified Secret. Dissemination of this NSSD, subsequent study material, and the resulting draft NSDD will be handled on a strict need-to-know basis. (e)

*Ronald Reagan*