A REPORT
TO THE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
by
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
on
UNITED STATES AND ALLIED WAR OBJECTIVES IN THE EVENT OF GLOBAL WAR
August 25, 1950
WASHINGTON
NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

to the

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

on

UNITED STATES AND ALLIED WAR OBJECTIVES
IN THE EVENT OF GLOBAL WAR

References:  
A. NSC 20/4
B. NSC 68
C. NSC 73/4

At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the enclosed memo-
andum by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the subject is circulated
herewith for the information of the National Security Council and
the Secretary of the Treasury and referred to the NSC Staff for use
in the preparation of a report for Council consideration.

In transmitting the enclosure the Secretary of Defense re-
quested that action be initiated in the National Security Council
as recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to develop a clear-cut
statement of the war objectives of the United States and that
further action be taken leading to the adoption of a concerted
statement of the war objectives of the United States and its allies,
all in the eventuality of possible global war.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury

DECLASSIFIED
Auth: 6014650
Date: JUNE 1975
By: John H. Ellicott
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

Subject: Statement of United States and Allied War Objectives in the Event of Global War.

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that, from the military point of view, there are certain compelling reasons for an early determination of clear-cut United States objectives in the event of war. Such a clear-cut statement of war objectives is necessary to serve as a basis for military planning, both prior to and during hostilities, in order to provide that our military efforts are directed toward the winning of the ultimate peace as well as to the winning of the war. Such a statement would be of major military value, in the event of hostilities, in order to assure for the war effort that degree of popular support which is essential to the fighting spirit of military forces, regardless of their numbers. Further, a well considered statement of allied war objectives would be of importance in insuring that our military operations would be supported by the forces of our allies, as nearly as possible with the same determination as we would expect of our own forces.

2. An effective statement of war objectives should not only be so worded as to arouse the American people and our allies to concerted support of the war effort but should also be so expressed as to cause enemy dissidents to oppose the Kremlin actively as well as passively, and, if possible, to encourage defections among the people and military forces of the USSR.

3. Because they are so broadly worded and since they were intended for other purposes the statements of national objectives appearing in NSC 20/4 entitled "U.S. Objectives with Respect to the USSR to Counter Soviet Threats to U.S. Security" and in NSC 68 entitled "United States Objectives and Programs for National Security" and the study by the staffs of the Departments of State and Defense, dated 7 April 1950, fail to meet the above requirements. Further, it is believed that there exist no approved policies or studies which fill the requirement expressed in the two preceding paragraphs.

4. While the Joint Chiefs of Staff do not consider that a global war is necessarily imminent, they nevertheless feel that it would be of prime importance, were war to eventuate, for the United
States and its allies to have available an agreed statement of
their war objectives in time for its early use—certainly before
possible results would be felt from the early heavy successes which
are anticipated as being within the military capabilities of the
USSR.

5. Accordingly, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that
action be initiated in the National Security Council to develop a
clear-cut statement of the war objectives of the United States and
that further action be taken leading to the adoption of a concerted
statement of the war objectives of the United States and its allies,
all in the eventuality of possible global war.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

/3/ GENERAL OMAR N. BRADLEY

OMAR N. BRADLEY,
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff.