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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1963

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Net Evaluation Subcommittee Report 1963

The report this year is on the war-gaming of a set of general wars in the 64-68 period on two assumptions: 1) we strike first, and 2) the Soviets do. The fundamental conclusion is that these wars are unacceptably destructive for both sides on all assumptions. Questions you might wish to ask are:

1. Do the experts agree that unacceptable levels of damage can be inflicted by both sides on all of these assumptions in all areas?
2. Is it clear that the first strike gives no decisive advantage to either side in all cases?
3. Is it agreed that even a very much larger U. S. defense force would not change these results? (See page 18 of the red book) Another way of doing this is to check out the conclusions stated on page 19.

One final question is whether we should not war game smaller-than-programmed forces to see whether we need even what we have now planned. But this question you may wish to reserve for a private talk with Bob McNamara. It will be raised in the 1965 budget decisions.

Inc. 43.  
McG. B.