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Tuesday, January 18, 1966
9:05 P.M. EST

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Information has been received that two of the nuclear devices which were carried on the B-52 which crashed in Southern Spain yesterday experienced a low order high explosive detonation. Although no nuclear reaction would result, such a detonation could cause a radiation hazard. However, if the detonation was minimal it is possible that no radiation hazard would occur.

There are sufficient qualified technical personnel now on the scene to properly take care of any situation which may exist in relation to these two weapons. Included among the personnel are Major General Wilson, Commander of the 16th Air Force (SAC) and Major General Beck for SAC headquarters.

Based on minimal information received, it is not possible to accurately estimate the situation. However, it is not believed that there is any basis for undue concern over the low order detonation of the two weapons.

White House Situation Room

Rennet Rosen

Briefing Officer

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By je NARA, Date 10.25.04