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POINT PAPER

Subj: U.S.-Mexico Marine Pollution Contingency Plan

HIGHLIGHTS

The operative elements of the plan are generally agreed on and we are now awaiting a response from the Government of Mexico relative to its execution.

DISCUSSION

For some time the U.S. has sought a joint contingency plan with GOM. The blow out of the IXTOC I well in the Bay of Campeche on 23 June 1979 provided a stimulus for discussions which took place in January and June 1980.

RECOMMENDATION

The negotiations of the proposed plan are being conducted by DOS with representation by the U.S. National Response Team. Although Navy involvement is relatively small, DOD is a member of the Team. It is recommended that discussion on the proposed plan not be initiated but if the subject is broached that interest in its consummation can be expressed as of mutual benefit to both Mexico and the U.S. Discussion of details of the plan should be avoided since negotiations may still have to occur. The information contained herein is not for public disclosure at the present time.

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