

March 22, 1976

National Security Study Memorandum 239

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Future of the French Territory of the Afars
 and the Issas (FTAI)

The French Government has announced its intention to grant independence to the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas (FTAI). In light of this decision and increased tension among the states most directly concerned with the future of FTAI, the President has directed a study of the independence process for the FTAI and policy options for the United States.

Drawing as appropriate on the study on the Horn of Africa done earlier in response to NSSM 184, the study should:

- Define and assess United States interests in the Horn and analyze how these interests may be affected by the coming independence of the FTAI.
- Examine various possible scenarios for the achievement of the independence of the FTAI.
- Describe and analyze the political groups and leadership in the FTAI and their likely roles in the independence process and beyond.
- Assess French, Somali, and Ethiopian interests and intentions regarding the FTAI and its forthcoming independence.
- Assess the impact the independence process will have on Somali/Ethiopian relations, on the internal security of those two states, and on U.S. /French interests in northern Africa.

