



INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY POLICY

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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JAN 16 1984

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: SEP 14 2018

10 JAN 1984  
In reply refer to:  
I-20976/84

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THRU UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

7 11 JAN 1984

SUBJECT: (U) Your Questions Concerning Announcing INF IOC --  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

(U) The following is provided in response to your questions  
(TAB A) concerning the announcement of IOC for GLCM and PII.

(1) Last year, when the UK and FRG were placing various  
restrictions on deployment preparations, we stopped talking  
publicly about "Initial Operational Capability (IOC)" so that  
we would be in a position to declare that units were "deployed"  
on schedule in December regardless of the state of their  
technical preparations. Announcing that INF deployments had  
begun as planned in the UK, the FRG and Italy sent the right  
signal to the Soviets and avoided portraying any one basing  
country being ahead of or behind the other.

(2) During December, we suggested to Allies that it was  
prudent to keep achievement of the operational capability in  
the UK and FRG low key for several reasons:

-- to avoid having to distinguish deployment of INF  
missiles from the operational status of those missiles -- which  
varies in each country;

-- to avoid in particular drawing attention to the  
fact that Italy technically won't achieve operational status  
until March 1984 for the first GLCM flight and will not achieve  
an operational capability for the second flight until December  
1985 given the pace of facility construction;

-- to undercut the Soviets' rhetoric about the need  
for countermeasures and to avoid supporting their public claims  
that the deployments preclude their returning to Geneva; and

-- to minimize the possibility that the so-called  
peace groups would find a new rallying point in an operational  
capability date as distinguished from a deployment date.

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(S)

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(U) In any event, the FRG and UK both announced that missiles are now operational, the former on 30 December and the latter on 2 January.

Now that NATO's INF missile deployments have begun, we anticipate receiving questions concerning the number of missiles in Europe. If and when we must answer such questions, we would prefer to tally NATO's missiles in terms of the number deployed, the same basis we use in reporting the status of Soviet SS-20 missiles. We will wish to avoid a situation in which we will have to confirm publicly each time another flight of GLCMs or battery of Pershings becomes operational. However, press guidance to the field is being prepared which confirms -- if asked -- the operational status of the initial set of missiles and at the same time lays the groundwork for a stock answer that deployments will continue at a steady rate until the program is complete or modified by an arms control agreement. We should keep the focus of public attention fixed on NATO's INF deployments proceeding in accordance with our plan, and not allow ourselves to be caught up in the details of distinguishing an operational missile from a deployed missile. While this is a cautious approach, I believe it will prove its utility as we continue implementing the Alliance's deployment schedule.

*Richard Perle*  
RICHARD PERLE

Attachment:  
as stated

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. 5552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 14 Sep 2018 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE MILITARY ASSISTANT

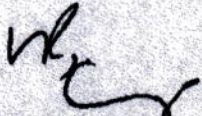
30 December 1983

NOTE FOR ASD/ISP

Please see the Secretary's comment on the attached which reads,

"Why did we not want IOC announced? Who made that decision for us?"

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: SEP 14 2018

  
Colin L. Powell  
Major General, USA  
Senior Military Assistant  
to the Secretary of Defense