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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2400

1997 OCT 20 AM 11:45

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OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

FROM: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Prepared by Col (b)(6) OASD/ISA (EUR), (b)(6) 14 Oct 97 14 OCT 1997

SUBJECT: Visit by Dr. John Reid, MP, UK Minister of State
for the Armed Forces, 15 Oct 97

Attached are briefing papers for your courtesy call with Dr. John Reid, British Minister of State for the Armed Forces, scheduled for 0830-0845, 15 Oct 97 in your office. Minister Reid is on his first visit to Washington since being appointed Minister of State (May 1997) and is seeing U.S. officials concerning Gulf War Illness.

Tab A contains talking points for your courtesy call. Tab B is a scope paper outlining the current British thinking on NATO issues, Bosnia, Northern Ireland and updates on the UK's Strategic Defence Review (SDR), nuclear issues and Northern Iraq. Tab C is Dr. Reid's biography and Washington itinerary. Tab D contains recent cables concerning UK issues.

Objectives of this meeting are:

- Congratulate the Minister on British efforts to assist the Poles for membership by working closely with the Polish military. Ask for the Minister's views from his visit to Poland last week
- Solicit Dr. Reid's consideration to lend support to JSTARS
- Stress the importance for Allies to keep pace with technological modernization so interoperability is not degraded
- Extend the SecDef's appreciation to MOD Robertson for the British offer to help with Congressional concerns over enlargement and SFOR

Reviewed by Acting DASD, European and NATO Affairs JBS 14 OCT 1997

Declassified By:
USDP
5/23/08

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14 OCT 97

**DEPSECDEF COURTESY CALL WITH DR. JOHN REID
BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES
15 OCTOBER 1997**

TALKING POINTS

- When Lord Gilbert visited last week, we had a chance to discuss interoperability, JSTARS, the U.S.-UK two-way street, and the progress of your Strategic Defense Review. Where do you see the defense review going and what is important to us?
- We appreciate British plans to upgrade the mobility and rapid-reaction capability of UK forces—a much better effort than most allies on this—and I trust it will continue to be a priority as you make decisions in your defense review.
- I believe we are taking the initiative for transatlantic cooperation and are strongly supportive of international cooperation to improve interoperability for coalition warfare. We encourage you and other Allies to continue to keep pace technologically so the interoperability is not degraded.
- We welcome the news that the UK is considering a cooperative development approach for insertion of advanced radar technology into the JSTARS and ASTOR platforms.
- As for enlargement, we think that the Poles and Hungarians are doing well, and the Czechs have had a wake-up call—all with much still to do, but the right type of plans to accomplish the necessary results. I believe part of that progress is a direct result of imaginative British ideas like your Polish-British senior-officer shadow program and joint Polish-British military exercises. What are your impressions from your visit to Poland last week?