

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Date: 03 Jan 2012 Authority: EO 13526

Declassify: 17 Deny in Full:

Declassify in Part:

Reason: MDR: 12-M-0441

10 JUL 1969

Ch. XI (28)

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SYSTEMS ANALYSIS)

SUBJECT: REDCOSTE

- REFS: A. SecDef Memorandum, Subject: Approved REDCOSTE Plan,
dated 10 December 1968
B. PBD 420, dated 10 December 1968
C. PBD 420R, dated 18 December 1968
D. DepSecDef Memorandum, Subject: REDCOSTE Decisions,
dated 28 March 1969
E. PCD 2-9-703, dated 23 April 1969

The President on 5 June 1969 approved for implementation the conclusions set out in the Memorandum for the President, prepared by the NSC Under Secretaries Committee (see attachments).

The President's decision in effect (a) reaffirms previously agreed REDCOSTE proposals and approves the proposed implementing schedule, (b) approves Committee conclusions on other REDCOSTE measures which had been pending, (c) requests that we proceed promptly with our studies of additional reductions, and (d) establishes guidance concerning the manner in which the REDCOSTE adjustments should be carried out in order to minimize their political impact on US relationships with our European allies.

As a result of the basic REDCOSTE memorandum of 10 December 1968, as amended by other references listed above, various REDCOSTE measures have already been initiated. I desire that the Military Services now proceed promptly with planning for and implementation of the remainder of the REDCOSTE proposals, as outlined in the Memorandum for the President and its enclosures. Even though implementation of some of the actions is dependent upon responses from our European Allies (e.g., the disposition of the Sergeant Missile Battalion in Italy), planning for such measures should be completed for possible implementation.

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OSR DOC 11-2

12-M-0441

27/14/69
Sec Def Cont Nr. X-3659

SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
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Implementation of those measures which would (1) affect mutual arrangements, (2) cause the release of facilities or a reduction of significant numbers of local employees, or (3) be highly visible, must await notification of host countries. The Department of State and OASD (ISA) are currently preparing and will shortly dispatch guidance to various US Embassies, with information copies to USCINCEUR, instructing them accordingly. US military field agencies and the Embassies concerned must coordinate closely on such measures to minimize any adverse political impact, especially in light of the reaction to Canada's decision to reduce her combat forces in Europe. Once the necessary notification of the host nations has been carried out, the Military Departments should, after obtaining OASD (ISA) concurrence on implementing instructions, direct their field agencies to implement the measures concerned.

General public affairs guidance is contained in Tab A to the attached Memorandum for the President. This will be furnished to USCINCEUR by OASD (PA). Additional guidance, as required, will appear in joint State/Defense messages to our Embassies and military commands.

You will note that adjustments in timing and in the precise numbers of the reductions are recognized as a possibility in Tab A of the attached Memorandum for the President. However, any such adjustments must be made within the limits of the overall REDCOSTE reductions as contained in the Memorandum for the President and reflected in appropriate PCDs; the overall level of reduction, as approved by the President, must be achieved within the three-year time frame, (or longer, if necessary, for those measures which depend on acceptance of tactical missions by the Allies). Within this framework, reprogramming actions in the planning and implementation of REDCOSTE are authorized in coordination with OASD (Systems Analysis) and OASD (Comptroller). Service plans for achieving these savings on this schedule should be submitted in detail as soon as possible and no later than 31 August, taking into account the basic REDCOSTE plan of 10 December 1968 as modified by subsequent decisions.

I have noted the JCS suggestion that the REDCOSTE progress reports be sent directly to me from the Service responsible for the various items, with a copy to the Joint Staff. In view of my desire to have a single document in which I can monitor the progress of REDCOSTE, I would appreciate it if the JCS would continue to act as the focal point for forwarding Service comments on REDCOSTE. The format for the March report is adequate, but I would like a little more detail and an item-by-item summary of the implementation scenario. (Item numbers should be keyed to the 10 December REDCOSTE memorandum.) Items 10, 12, and 29.1 may be dropped from the report. Item 29.5 should continue to be included, reporting assigned and authorized end-strengths, and any actions taken under normal personnel surveys.

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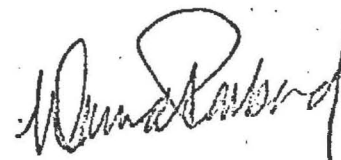
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You will note that Mr. Kissinger's 5 June memorandum to Mr. Richardson refers to further studies dealing with (a) US manning of NATO staffs, (b) the question of the retention of USAFE at Wiesbaden, (c) the increase and acquisition of other air bases in Germany, (d) further Air Force reductions in Europe, including the Wiesbaden area, and (e) the question of further reductions of activities at Athens International Airport. Items (a) and (b) are to be considered again in the context of Presidential decisions concerning the future level of US forces in Europe and our long-term attitude toward NATO. (In addition, Item (a) is to be dealt with in the course of normal personnel surveys and in the context of our efforts to share the defense burden with our allies.) Item (c) is being handled separately. We should, however, proceed with the other two studies (Items (d) and (e)) at once.

Accordingly, I desire that OASD (International Security Affairs) chair a group, including representation also from OASD (Systems Analysis), the Joint Staff, and Department of the Air Force, to prepare and submit to the Secretary of Defense a joint study on Item (e). The study should be submitted as soon as possible within the first quarter of FY 1970.

I also desire that Department of the Air Force develop proposals for further personnel savings in Europe (Item (d)) and submit them to the Secretary of Defense as soon as possible within the first quarter of FY 1970.

The White House has directed that no copies of the Memorandum for the President or retransmissions of the complete text will be sent to overseas posts.



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1. Memorandum for the President,
26 May 1969
2. Memorandum for Under Secretary
Richardson, 5 June 1969

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Copies to:

Director of Defense Research & Engineering
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations & Logistics)
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower & Reserve Affairs)
Assistant to the Secretary (Atomic Energy)

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