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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

04-1-0625


JCSM-265-83
24 October 1983

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 17 2013

(29)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Release of I-CHAPARRAL (MIM-72C) to Saudi Arabia

1. ~~(S)~~ Reference your memorandum* requesting the Joint Chiefs of Staff to review the recommendation concerning the release of the Improved (I)-CHAPARRAL (MIM-72C) to Saudi Arabia and to provide the JCS position.
2. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the following:
 - a. (U) Points favoring release:
 - (1) ~~(S)~~ Release would enhance interoperability. In the event of direct US involvement in a conflict in Saudi Arabia, the presence of the I-CHAPARRAL (MIM-72C) would provide the necessary interface with firstline US systems.
 - (2) ~~(S)~~ Release would enhance regional defense, since no country other than the United States possesses this missile. It would also provide a continuum in Saudi air defense capability between the STINGER, the I-HAWK, and the Saudi interceptor capability. JS 3.3(b)(6)
 - (3) ~~(S)~~ 
 - (4) ~~(S)~~ Possession by the Saudis of this frontline US Army air defense missile system could further solidify US-Saudi relations.

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b. (U) Points militating against release:

(1) ~~(S)~~ No country outside the United States possesses the MIM-72C. This version is not available for FMS. No country, including NATO and other allies, presently possesses this system. OSD 3.3(b)(5)(6)

(a) ~~(S)~~

(b) ~~(S)~~

(2) ~~(S)~~ The seeker technology in the MIM-72C is the same as in the AIM-9M SIDEWINDER missile, which has also not been offered for sale outside the United States. JS 3.3(b)(6)

(3) ~~(S)~~

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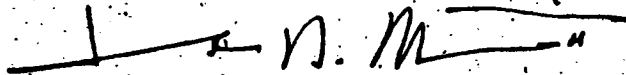
OSD 3.3(b)(6)

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3. (S) Review of the foregoing pros and cons concerning the release of the I-CHAPARRAL (MIM-72C) to Saudi Arabia indicates that the factors militating against such release outweigh benefits that might accrue to the United States through such release. The technology involved in the MIM-72C, its connectivity with the AIM-9M SIDEWINDER, and the fact that the MIM-72C has never been sold to any foreign country are overriding factors in this issue.

4. (S) After consideration of these facts, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that the I-CHAPARRAL (MIM-72C) not be released to the Government of Saudi Arabia at this time.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



JACK N. MERRITT
Lieutenant General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

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Reference:

- * Memorandum by the Secretary of Defense, 17 October 1983, "Release of I-CHAPARRAL (MIM-72C) to Saudi Arabia (S) -- Action Memorandum"