



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Office of the Secretary of Defense WASHINGTON
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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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6 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: FY 79-83 Army Program Objective Memorandum

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(U) The Fiscal Year 79-83 Army Program Objective Memorandum has been developed by the Army Staff to meet one objective: to maintain an Army, in being, organized and equipped to fight to win if ground combat ensues. Moreover, this program focuses on mechanized warfare in Central Europe while providing for contingency options elsewhere in the world.

(S) The Army Staff assessment of Soviet/Warsaw Pact capabilities and trends implies a critical window in time, 1979-1981, when Soviet/Warsaw Pact relative advantage reaches its maximum. Therefore, the Army program, within available resources, emphasizes near term readiness improvement actions as a deterrence hedge, while concurrently accelerating mid-range modernization of the force. However, the Army has grave concern over the lack of similar effort by our NATO Allies.

(S) Demonstrable force readiness improvements for forward deployed forces in Europe and for CONUS based early deploying forces, both active and reserve, are balanced with accelerated modernization. Improved equipment and weapons systems, operated by realistically trained soldiers and at the current manning level, will provide qualitative advantages to partially offset the Soviet/Warsaw Pact quantitative advantage and will narrow the gap in those areas where the Soviets now demonstrate qualitative superiority.

(S) This program presents a balanced program within available resources, but the Army cannot do everything necessary to optimize near term readiness and maintain necessary modernization efforts. The additional balanced and executable packages contained in the Alternate Case are required to repair serious defects which weaken Army readiness and sustaining capability. New programs to overcome the serious mobilization shortfall in the Ready Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve appear in the Alternate Case because of lack of enabling legislation. Should such legislation be approved prior to or during the execution of this program, I would expect the necessary

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resources to be provided. The Alternate Case also addresses some Army proposals on fiscal policy and a more rational approach to logistics programming.

(U) Continuation of the open and frank dialogue between your staff and mine will assure that we arrive at a balanced, affordable and effective Army program for national defense.


Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

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