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 Authority: EO 13526
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 Date: SEP 15 2015

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

May 2, 1980

Office of the Secretary of Defense ⁸ 5 USC 552
 Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
 Date: 15 SEP 2015 Authority: EO 13526
 Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
 Declassify in Part: _____
 Reason: _____
 MDR: 15 -M- 1700

DOC # 127

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Cost Estimates for Improvements at Ras Banas (8)

(8) This memorandum is in response to your request for estimates of costs to improve existing facilities at Ras Banas sufficiently to develop that site into an austere rear-staging area for a force of one division plus and a tactical air wing...the initial element of an RDF deployment to deal with a major contingency.

(8) The figures below are based on very preliminary work, and should be regarded as no more than an educated guess. In those terms, the Joint Staff estimates that the total cost for the improvements over time would be approximately \$250 million (which includes \$11.2 million for planning and design costs in FY 80S and 81A budgets). Improvements on this scale would support surge operations and rapid deployment and staging of a division plus-size ground force (light) and a tactical fighter wing (72 aircraft). These improvements would also provide facilities to preposition ammunition and selected equipments to sustain these forces in combat for about a month. The enclosure gives some breakdown of these cost estimates, but the level of detail shown is not meant to imply accuracy.

(8) Although the total of all improvements comes to \$250 million, we are currently in the process of prioritizing the individual requirements. We could improve our capability to stage through Ras Banas by doing only some of these projects. The major components are:

- airfield improvements (in this estimate \$38.3M) necessary to handle C-141 aircraft equivalents,
- port development (\$32M) including pier construction and dredging requirements,
- infrastructure (\$43.5M) for fuel and water storage and distribution reflecting the very low local economic support structure, and
- facilities for ground unit staging (\$70.9M) primarily for cantonment areas.

(8) Better cost estimates for all the work we are considering will be available following a detailed technical inspection of Ras Banas, which we intend to undertake later this month.

Enclosure

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