

SECRET

(S) We endorse the DCG's emphasis on NATO as reflecting national policy. Yet, the DCG departs in some areas from established NATO military objectives -- e.g., the decoupling of nuclear weapons from conventional defense (pg. C-8) -- and ignores some near term priorities, such as munitions stockage shortfalls, airbase vulnerability and NATO C³ problems. Further, we note that the guidance yields gaps in two tactical air capabilities which are critical to the success of the national military strategy if we have to fight. Those vital capabilities are in-theater mobility and additive tactical air power for non-NATO contingencies.

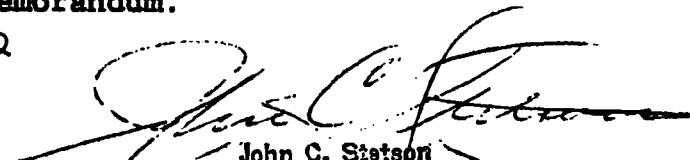
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(S) In our POM submission, we will attempt to improve our knowledge of options through a stronger analytic emphasis which is not bound by today's static measures of force adequacy. It will be focused on an interactive net assessment to uncover the evolutionary potentials and vulnerabilities of any given force balance. Otherwise, we run the risk of developing planning myopia in an era when the velocity of technological change will penalize any reductions in planned flexibility.

(S) The Air Force believes that the program resulting from the guidance in the DCG would increase the risk that the military balance will shift in favor of the Soviet Union. The DCG should be improved to make it consistent with Presidential direction to maintain a military balance at least as favorable as that which now exists. Additional comments and other suggestions are in the attachments to this memorandum.

This is indeed the key objective

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John C. Stator
Secretary of the Air Force

- 4 Attachments
1. Proposed Policy/Strategy/ Planning Subsection (S)
 2. Background Paper, AF Evaluation of DCG (S)
 3. Essential Line-in/Line-out Comments
 4. Important & Editorial Line-in/Line-out Comments (S)

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cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense