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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

28 July 1979

Memo For SECDEF

As you will see from this paper responding to Zbig's inquiry, we are talking a great deal about limited contingency capabilities but our achievements--other than the probably beneficial influence most of our talking has had on perceptions--are modest indeed. The key unattended part of the world, from a military point of view, is the Middle East, including the Persian Gulf, and this is what Zbig is rightly concerned with as I interpret his memorandum.

Our principal deficiencies in this regard are four:

(1) We do not have a military commander (not necessarily the same thing as a major command) and staff with primary responsibility to develop the contingency plans, train the troops, and otherwise sponsor, monitor, and oversee the achievement of peacetime readiness to do what would be needed in wartime. EUCOM will never adequately fulfill this role. Per your note on my recent memo, Dave Jones and I owe you a response by September 1 on possible new command arrangements.

(2) We do not train our people sufficiently for Middle East contingencies; a commander would help this problem alot. *organization*

(3) We do not have sufficient lift to move sizeable numbers of troops and equipment quickly; and

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Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
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Memo For \_\_\_\_\_

(4) We have not yet achieved sufficient political and military coordination with our regional friends, although we have made good progress in this regard since your February visit and, particularly through the memo on surge capability you recently sent to JCS, have appropriate further work underway.

There are other deficiencies but these are the main ones. Until we have resolved them, it's difficult to say that, in military terms, we are taking with full seriousness the "half-war" responsibility.

*Dem*  
David E. McGiffert

Attachment

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