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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

November 10, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Rapid Deployment Forces (U)

(S) As you know, we have evidence of new Soviet thinking on and capability for projection of power beyond the USSR periphery. Our response must include measures which enhance deterrence by facing them with higher risks of escalation in the event of Soviet intervention abroad. Therefore, as part of your ongoing planning for rapid deployment forces, I would like you to examine ways to improve our capability for very rapid deployment of small, highly effective force elements to potential crisis areas. In particular, you should work with the Commandant of the Marine Corps to examine whether the Marines should have a larger role in such planning.

Harold Brown

cc: USD(P)
CNC

Office of the Secretary of Defense *SUSCSD*
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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