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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WIIS + 5 USC 9552  
Date: 12 FEB 2018 Authority: EO 13526  
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Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 19 -M- 0444

August 27, 1981

Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr.  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Al,

(U) As you know, I promised the NATO MODs an unclassified Defense document to reemphasize the seriousness of the Soviet military threat.

~~(S)~~ The document, "Soviet Military Power," is now complete and being published, and I have attached a page proof for your information. I am providing the NATO MODs copies before public release to assist in their efforts to shape domestic opinion. The document addresses the worldwide Soviet military threat, and I am also providing copies to the MODs of other allies and friends.

~~(S)~~ I have attached a copy of the message being sent to Defense Attaches and a schedule we have established for public release. We will be coordinating government-wide efforts to use this data through the interagency working group on European Attitudes.

Sincerely,

Attachments

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TO: US NATO *BRUSSELS BE*  
Defense Advisor NATO  
US DAO Tokyo *Japan JA*  
US DAO Canberra *Australia AS*  
US DAO Wellington *New Zealand NZ*  
US DAO Paris *France FR*  
US DAO Bonn *Federal Republic of Germany GE*  
US DAO Lisbon *Portugal PC*  
US DAO Oslo *Norway NO*  
US DAO London *United Kingdom UK*  
US DAO Ottawa *Canada CI*  
US DAO Ankara *Turkey TU*  
US DAO Rome *Italy IT*  
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US DAO Copenhagen *Denmark DA*  
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US DAO ~~Mexico DF~~ *Mexico City MX*  
US DAO Muscat *Oman MU*  
US DAO Islamabad *Pakistan PK*  
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US DAO Jidda *Saudi Arabia SA*  
US DAO Singapore *Singapore SN*  
US DAO Seoul *South Korea KS*  
US DAO Madrid *Spain SP*  
US DAO Stockholm *Sweden SW*  
US DAO Geneva *Switzerland SZ*  
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US DAO Caracas *Venezuela VE*  
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*AMEMB REYKJAVIK*  
SEC STATE *WASHINGTON DC*  
CIA

SUBJECT: Release of Major Study on "Soviet Military Power"

1. ~~(S)~~ A new and major study of "Soviet Military Power" has been prepared under SecDef auspices. The study provides

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a comprehensive analysis of the Soviet military threat at the conventional, theater and strategic level. It contains much significant information that is newly declassified and we anticipate that it will be of particular interest to European publics. We also anticipate world-wide interest will be keen and thus plan wide distribution of the study.

2. ~~(S)~~ Defense Attaches at all addressee posts will receive multiple copies of the study. Defense Attaches in NATO addressee nations (except Reykjavik), as well as Tokyo, Canberra, and Wellington, will receive 200 copies of the study by special military courier (flight schedules/other administrative arrangements/septel). Defense Attaches should ensure that 100 copies of the study, as well as the accompanying letter from Secretary Weinberger, are passed to host government MODs on 12 September. This will permit MODs time to study the document prior to US release in Washington, DC, at 11:30 a.m., local time on September 17. It should be emphasized that public release is embargoed until September 17, and the material should not be distributed publicly until that time. Defense Attaches should retain 100 copies of study to fulfill anticipated follow-up requests from host governments MODs or other officials.

3. ~~(S)~~ The Defense Advisor US NATO will receive 300 copies of the study. 100 copies each, with accompanying letters from Secretary Weinberger, should be passed on September 12 to Secretary-General Luns, and Iceland's Permrep for delivery to the Government of Iceland. You

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should make the points drawn from Secretary Weinberger's letter in para 5 below.

4. (U) Other non-NATO addressee posts will receive copies of study through diplomatic pouch. The study should be passed to MODs in host country on September 17, the day of US release, or as soon thereafter as possible.

5. ~~(S)~~ For Defense Attaches in NATO nations: In presenting study to host government MODs, Defense Attaches should make points drawn from Secretary Weinberger's letter to MODs. Text follows:

"Dear Mr. Minister:

~~(S)~~ In fulfillment of my commitment expressed at the Spring NPG and DPC to provide you with up-to-date unclassified information on the Soviet threat, I have asked that advance copies of a major new study entitled "Soviet Military Power", be passed to you. (I) hope that you will feel free to use material from this study in your own campaign to shape public attitudes on major security issues.

~~(S)~~ The study provides a comprehensive analysis of the Soviet military threat at the conventional, theater and strategic level. Much of the information it contains is newly declassified and I am confident it will be of particular interest to public audiences in your country.

~~(S)~~ The study will be released in Washington, DC, at 11:30 a.m. local time on September 17. As I will hold a press conference to introduce it, I would hope that the study could be considered "embargoed" until that time. The

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manner and timing of release of all or part of the materials in the study in your country will be at your discretion. However, US defense attaches and public affairs officers will be available to assist you and your staff in utilizing the materials should you desire.

(U) In closing, I wish to stress again that this study is offered as a contribution to your effort to establish a firmer public consensus on the nature of the Soviet threat. I look forward to continuing to work with you in this public effort, which I believe is of major importance for the long-term security of the NATO Alliance.

Sincerely,

Caspar W. Weinberger"

6. (U) For Defense Attaches in Tokyo, Canberra and Wellington: A similar letter to MODs will accompany the documents delivered to your posts and in presenting the study, you should make points drawn from letter in para 5 above, with the exception of references to NPG and DPC commitments. You should make the point that the study discusses the Soviet global threat and Secretary Weinberger believes the study will be of interest. He looks forward to working with them in countering the Soviet threat.

7. (U) The nickname MOHAWK RIVER (U) has been assigned to this action and should be used in unclassified references to it until the September 17 press conference.

8. (U) For DAO Brussels: Please deliver the documents to MOD Luxemburg.

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9. (S) For USDATT in all NATO countries: Mr. Richard Perle, ASD(ISP), will hold an orientation briefing on this document in Brussels on 4 September. The briefing will cover the background of the document, its scope and purpose. This is to aid in your own subsequent briefings to host country MODs. Request you arrange through USDAO Brussels to attend this presentation or send a DAO representative. Details will follow.

10. (U) For all Defense Attaches: The contents of this message are to be made available to the COM and country team.

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