

~~TOP SECRET EYES ONLY~~

#14



POLICY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SEC DEF HAS SEEN

JUN 24 1982

24 JUN 1982

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 03 2018

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: UK Request for 20 Harpoon Missiles - ACTION MEMORANDUM

In light of your conversation with Al Haig at this morning's breakfast we have decided to go forward with the transfer of 20 air launched Harpoon anti-ship missiles to the UK. In addition, we will also fulfill the UK request for various equipments that will permit them to launch those missiles from aircraft.

To recapitulate, the issues surrounding this particular transfer arise from Navy and JCS opposition to the further degradation of US readiness. Present Harpoon inventory is about 75 percent of air and shipfill requirements with only deploying units assured of a full loadout. While it would be possible to reconfigure missiles from the Iranian Harpoon inventory, the Navy would need up to 30 days to transfer the missiles to the UK in order not to remove missiles already with the fleet. The British requested that the first eight missiles be delivered within the next week, however. I should add that CNO opposes the transfer of any Harpoons at this time because the P-3C units at Brunswick require the Harpoons every bit as badly as the British do.

The Navy also voiced its concern about the transfer of some of the support equipment, especially test set simulators. Each of the four simulators that will be transferred to the UK will deprive a Navy squadron of test capability.

Fred
Fred C. Ikle

CONCUR WITH TRANSFER OF MISSILES AND EQUIPMENT
OTHER _____

*Don't consider indicated
by call 504 along
with 8 Harpoons at
first - So let's get there*

*+ 2 SSF & Equipment, to the
U.S.A.P.*

COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES.

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Office of the Secretary of Defense 6USC352
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
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