



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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12 JAN 1984

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: APR 02 2018

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy *72*

SUBJECT: Potential Changes to our START Position -- ACTION
MEMORANDUM *107*

107 The purpose of this memorandum is to acquaint you with recent inter-agency activity related to START and to request your guidance concerning participation in it by the OSD staff.

107 Pursuant to the President's "build-down" decision prior to the last round of the START negotiations, the Delegation indicated to the Soviets our willingness to discuss ways in which areas of U. S. interest and advantage could be "traded off" against areas of Soviet interest and advantage. Efforts are now underway to develop more precise "trade off" proposals for the Delegation's use at the next round of START. Despite the fact that the Soviets did not respond positively during the last round, this further amplification of our present policy appears necessary to allay any suspicion that the Administration might not be whole-heartedly implementing the "build-down" agreement reached with the Congress last fall.

107 At the same time, there is increasing interest in preparing more substantive changes to our START position. The START Inter-agency Group is seeking our cooperation and assistance in developing one of five contemplated papers on fundamental changes. Our contribution would deal with the possibility of simplifying our current position by concentrating solely on RVs and throw-weight; it would be similar to some of the work we originally did before the START negotiations began. Papers prepared by the other agencies would discuss major shifts toward the Soviet position and the possibility of reaching a "Vladivostok" type accord on basic principles.

107 Despite the broad spectrum of changes to be considered, it is likely that some will characterize this effort, if it reaches fruition, as an attempt to "move the negotiations forward." Consequently, we must be prepared to resist the pressures that will exist to choose the option most acceptable to the Soviets, and to argue strenuously that there are other reasons, such as improved verifiability, for making changes to our START position.

11 JAN 84

330-86-0048, b212, ↑ (In-Fact)

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See Def Cont Nr. X28847

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~~(S)~~ Port visits in the Eastern Mediterranean also need to be monitored closely. We must balance our visits to Israeli and Egyptian ports, as well as possible calls to Turkey and Greece.

~~(S)~~ In sum, the JCS recommendation to have one carrier on 96-hour recall is a sound one, but it is important that you be kept informed of these ship movements before they take place. Recommend that you sign the attached memorandum to the Chairman, JCS.

At any rate, a mention of your intent in this regard should be transmitted across the river. We've been MIA so far, for obvious reasons. UR/Ruh

RICHARD L. ARMITAGE
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(International Security Affairs)

I fully agree with principal recommendation of this memo. However, you may not want to make a political gesture out of this Independence movement, because doing so could undercut your key recommendation of relying on forces off shore.

Fred.

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