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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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12 June 1976

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

MDR: 18 -M-2094

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Bilateral Meeting between SecDef and MOD Leber on  
11 June 1976, at NATO Hq, Brussels, Belgium

1. Present were the following:

SecDef

Mr. McAuliffe

Dr. Lagere

RADM Holcomb

MOD Leber

Mr. Krapf

Dr. Stuetzle

2. SecDef's scheduled TV taping session with Dr. Ruhle was discussed. MOD Leber gave Ruhle high marks and summarized recent responses he had given to Ruhle on the Mediterranean situation and the Central European balance.

3. Leber observed that certain remarks he had made during the morning plenary DPC session regarding nuclear and conventional force problems had been aimed at non-NPG delegations who would not hear him say the same things next week.

4. Leber's upcoming visit to the US was discussed. SecDef offered to do things any way Leber prefers ... large-scale, or small. He promised to include both the Hughes and Currie briefings in Leber's day at DOD. Leber said he'd like that, and that his Embassy was doing a good job of arranging the things he wants to do. He emphasized his desire to see George Meany, an old friend, and senior members in both houses of Congress. SecDef cited his discussion of the unionization-of-the-military problem with Meany, as an example of the solid support Meany gives DOD.

5. SecDef said there were four or five topics he wanted to discuss, at least briefly:

First, Spain's evolving relationship with NATO was touched on. Leber expressed exact agreement with SecDef's view that now is the time for movement, before the when-Franco-goes criterion is replaced by other conditional criteria. Both agreed that visits by NATO officials would help unite NATO with Spain, a vital part of Iberian peninsula. Leber said multiple bilateral contacts



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were essential so that, in time, NATO would simply confirm a relationship which existed. He took upon himself the task of talking with the Danes and the Dutch; suggested that SecDef take Canada, UK and Norway. SecDef suggested that Portugal be linked to Spain in the discussions, wherever possible. Leber agreed. SecDef reported his luncheon conversation yesterday with Mason, Richardson, and Vredeling on the subject of Spain.

Second, SecDef made a special point of describing Mr. McAuliffe's accomplishments and credentials as ASD(ISA), stating that he expected to have him totally involved.

Third, SecDef stated that plans for the NORTHAG Brigade were moving along well. Leber agreed.

Fourth, SecDef acknowledged receiving Leber's comments on the TNF Paper, indicating that he had not had time to read them yet.


Finally, SecDef reported that he had called together the senior U.S. officials involved in the question of a new tank for US and NATO, telling them that XM-1 and LEOPARD II programs were heading for trouble in the sense of standardization and interoperability. Both programs appear to be picking up momentum in a divergent manner. He stressed that the objective should be to standardize on ammunition, fuel, engine parts and trucks, at a minimum.

SecDef proposed putting one or two experts from both DOD and FRG together in a room until they had made every effort humanly possible to resolve the dilemma and achieve a high degree of standardization. He agreed to accept test program for 120 mm gun and rifled 120 mm gun, as an example of his determination.

Leber agreed that we should avoid the present situation -- with people arguing about where the tank is to be built -- with the concept of commonality being lost. He said he is quite willing to have two objective experts from each side get together fast.

It was decided that Dr. Legere and Mr. McAuliffe would get together with FRG reps during next two or three days to work out terms of reference and set first meeting place and time. Goal is to have at least one serious meeting before Leber heads for U.S. on 25 June, so that SecDef and Leber can review preliminary thinking in Washington on 1-2 July.

cc: ISA  
DIA (Attn J. Hughes)  
DDR&E  
UndSecArmy

  
M. Staser Holcomb  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Military Assistant

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