



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

#10

24 JUL 1973

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

In reply refer to:
1-24358/73

SEP 20 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Department of Defense NATO Action Program - ACTION MEMORANDUM (U)

Attached for your approval (Tab A) is a guidance message to US Mission NATO. It is designed to maintain the momentum of the program of action now underway to follow-up on your proposals to the NATO Defense Planning Committee on June 7.

The DPC in Permanent Session meets on Wednesday, July 25 to agree on the work plan stemming from the Ministerial session. Timing is important since we wish to impart a clear understanding of what we have in mind before the seasonal European slow down in August.

(U) This guidance was coordinated within the Department of Defense under the supervision of the NATO Task Force and interdepartmental agreement was reached on the message at a special meeting of the DPRC Working Group on Monday, June 23.

(U) The original DoD draft is at Tab B. The Department of State continues to hold that NATO should be encouraged on a rather narrow front in order to achieve progress in conventional force improvements, but that fundamental strategy related issues should be avoided as much as possible.

We are moving ahead with the NATO Action Program. The attached message provides a basis for most effective use of the NATO bureaucracy and will provide for a lot of national work to be accomplished as opposed to placing emphasis on the NATO bureaucracy. The NATO Task Force has initiated the development of OJCS/DPA&E coordinated programs in the areas of force improvement you highlighted at the DPC. As you know, the bilateral discussion and exchange of data and analytical methodology is well underway. Concepts and structure options are being reviewed and OJCS is initiating bilateral discussions with the Allies on this item. We have initiated the preparation of a briefing tied to a quick study on tactical nuclear issues. The MBFR Task Force is undertaking analysis of how the US would best take reductions. We are refining and improving briefings, fact sheets, slides and data for use in addressing NATO issues.

Rej

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11/1/73

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(c) I propose to focus on the specific steps we need to take to improve our data and analytical base. We will also add Comptroller representation to the Task Force and launch work on examining the cost figures quoted for NATO. Further, I intend to begin further work in the area of burden sharing and balance of payments data.

(d) The NATO Action Program is in fact already serving as a basis for coordinating the overall Administration approach on the security issues of the "Year of Europe", as the attached message reflects. Therefore, I believe it very important for you to send the program to Mr. Kissinger with your stamp of approval. Further, the program is a useful guide to our progress and for this reason I recommend that you formally approve the program within the Department of Defense to give added impetus to carrying out the tasks we have begun.

(u) With the Action Program approved, I would like to have the Task Force meet with you at least every other week to receive guidance and to report to you the current status of projects underway.

Robert Hill

APPROVE MESSAGE AT TAB A OK (u) for sending 26 JUL 1973

OTHER _____

Attachments:
Tab A Draft Message for approval
Tab B Draft for reference

Prepared by:
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OASD/ISA/ED
X-78495

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 20 SEP 2016 Authority: EO 13526+5 U.S.C. § 552
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 19 -M- 2024

*Gen'l message. Strong,
positive. Reconn. consistent
with your views and sense
of urgency.*

(u)

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