

27 OCT 1981 16 52 - 212  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Jordan  
STINGER  
Jordan

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: AUG 02 2018

October 27, 1981

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
From: Alexander M. Haig, *AMH*  
Subject: Release of STINGER and F-16A to Jordan

After careful thought, I have come to the decision that we should not commit ourselves to sell STINGER or the F-16A to Jordan during the current Joint Military Commission meeting, but that with respect to the aircraft, we should say that we are prepared to sell them a first-line air defense aircraft.

With respect to STINGER, I recognize that we did inform Jordan last May that we were ready in principle to provide the missiles but that we would have to defer action on the request. A sale to Jordan would trigger very quickly requests from Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Sudan and a number of other Middle East and African countries. I simply do not believe that we are in a position now either to deal with these requests or to defend them on the Hill, particularly given the STINGER's potential as a terrorist weapon.

The case of the F-16 is somewhat different. I am deeply concerned by the strong opposition evident in Congress to the proposed Pakistan and Venezuela F-16 sales. A specific commitment at this time, particularly in the Middle East, would run a high risk of a violent Congressional reaction. On balance, I believe that our commitment to provide a first-line air defense aircraft, as well as our support of the special program of military cooperation, should be more than enough to offset any Jordanian concern about our decision not to approve the sale of F-16 aircraft at this time.

I have no objection to a commitment now to sell DIVADS or MLRS.

(27 Oct 81)

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Following the JMC meeting but before Hussein's arrival next week, the two of us should consult on how we deal with the possible impact of these decisions on Jordan's interest in acquiring Soviet air defense weapons.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 02 Aug 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 USC 1992  
Declassify:  Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
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