



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Folder "NATO 320.2 (Apr) 1973, Box 75, 330-78-cv 01

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In reply refer to:
I-22210/73

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: MBFR and Allied Force Improvements (S) - ~~INFORMATION~~ MEMORANDUM

(S) At the 15 March Verification Panel meeting, Henry Kissinger proposed that we link specific Allied steps on force improvements to MBFR, and include a US plan for Allied improvement as part of our presentation to NATO. The issue will be addressed at the 12 April NSC meeting on MBFR.

(S) Henry's point -- which is generally shared in Washington -- is that with MBFR we need more than ever: (1) to forestall any Allied let-down in defense effort; (2) to get the Allies to improve their forces further. The question for the NSC is not whether we make this point in our MBFR-submission to the Allies: we always have in the past and should do so again. The real issue is whether in our MBFR paper we call for a stepped-up Allied force improvement effort and propose specific actions for them to consider.

(S) I do not think this is wise; State strenuously opposes it:

- It would link the two subjects in a way that will complicate and impede progress in both.
- It would strike too blatant a note of "you should build-up to permit us to reduce."
- It would commit us before we are ready to say what our overall force improvements approach should be, to say nothing of the specific steps that might be developed, in light of:
 - NSSM 168, the comprehensive study of NATO strategy and forces and US policy choices now underway (to be completed 1 May).
 - NSSM 170, which addresses US balance of payments offsets with NATO.

~~Classification: Dis, DOD MBFR Task Force~~
~~EXCLUDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 12958, DECLASSIFIED ON 21 Dec 01~~

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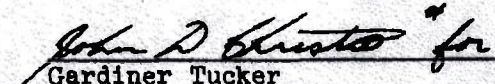
-- Your own directive for development (by May 1) of an overall plan for dealing with NATO.

- It could foreclose on the options that you might wish to pursue at the meeting of the Defense Planning Committee (DPC) in June.

~~(s)~~ Therefore, I propose that we take a general line of continuing emphasis on modernization and improvement of Allied military capabilities in our MBFR paper; but that we reserve until later any specific demarches. Your first appearance at the DPC could present the best opportunity for focussing on a larger strategy and force improvement plan.


 Lawrence S. Eagleburger
 Acting Assistant Secretary

Coordination:

 for
 Gardiner Tucker
 Assistant Secretary (Systems Analysis)

** from our view the allies are already doing a lot to improve their forces. #*

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