



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

10 SEP 1973

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 14 2018

In reply refer to:
1-25275/73

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of NATO Task Force with Secretary of Defense(u)

Participants:

Secretary of Defense Schlesinger
OSD/ISA - Ambassador Hill
" - BG Lobbell
" - Mr. Bartholomew
Joint Staff - LTG Selth
" - BG Christensen
DP&E - Mr. Christie
DDR&E - Dr. Currie
ASD(Comp) - Mr. Brazier
ASD(LA) - Dr. Wolhuis
ASD(PA) - Mr. Friedheim

ASD(I) - Mr. Parker
ASD(I&L) - Mr. Franke
Assistant to Secretary and
Deputy Secretary - Mr. Murray

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 19 SEP 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: ☒ Deny in Full: ☐
Declassify in Part: ☐
Reason: ☐
MDR: 18 -M- 2029

Time: 1100-1230, 6 September 1973

Place: Secretary's Dining Room, Pentagon

1. NATO Efforts

Ambassador Hill opened the meeting with a report on NATO's special efforts in connection with force improvements, specialization, and burdensharing. He discussed the two-phased study of the Executive Working Group (EWG) on "Basic Issues of NATO Defense Planning." The first phase will cover three force improvements that Secretary Schlesinger proposed in June: aircraft shelters, anti-tank weapons, and war reserve stocks. This study, to be completed by December, will be followed by a phase-two study on other force improvements which will be presented to Ministers at the spring DPC meeting. An

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ad hoc group of seven interested countries has been formed to examine possibilities in specialization of tasks performed in the central region by national armies, air forces, and navies. A fourth topic of study, logistics, may be undertaken on 12 September. Another ad hoc group of interested countries has been formed to respond to the US initiatives on burdensharing. Ambassador Hill then covered the bilateral briefings of MOD's on the conventional force balance and the imminent briefings of the EWG/DRC, the SHAPE Staff, and possibly SACEUR. Ambassador Hill also touched on US efforts to release US intelligence data to NATO and to urge all NATO nations to release their DPQ Special Distribution Tables.

2. ~~(S)~~ Restructuring

General Seith reported on the JCS restructuring study and SACEUR's comments on the EUCOM input to that study. This report is due to SecDef through the NATO Task Force by 1 October. Secretary Schlesinger asked the JCS opinion of the RAND/KOMER Study. General Seith observed that the RAND Study contained some good ideas, but its approach was not thorough enough.

3. ~~(S)~~ Force Improvements

General Seith reported that the USAF was conducting bilaterals on 20 collocated operating bases that the US desires for its augmentation forces. The JCS plans to interface its study of aircraft survivability with the one that SHAPE is doing for the EWG. General Christensen indicated that our desire to have the allies bear the modest cost of maintaining our prepositioned war reserve materiel at these collocated operating bases had not yet been broached with the allies. This US objective will be taken up by Chairman Moorer at the next Chiefs of Staff session of the Military Committee on 19 September. General Seith stated that the NATO Task Force would receive the JCS plan for anti-tank weapon improvements on 28 September. He indicated that the greatest problem in developing a war munitions reserve plan was obtaining hard, consistent data. The JCS will recommend the steps required to achieve a current, standard level of munitions within NATO.

4. ~~(S)~~ Conventional Force Balance

Secretary Schlesinger asked what SHAPE was doing about the conventional force balance issue. General Seith noted that the JCS examination of restructuring and their study of wartime logistics capability, (CAPLOC) address "early day" conventional defense. Secretary Schlesinger observed

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that SHAPE assumes that a one-to-three-week conventional defense of NATO territory is realistic for planning purposes. He asserted that MC 161 has to be made realistic. The NATO threat figures are close to ours, but NATO intentions and threat descriptions put a different meaning on the figures. The scenarios are tailored to that which is politically palatable and institutionally advantageous to all allies. For example, SHAPE estimates that 100% manned Warsaw Pact divisions can be ready for combat in one day whereas we require 10 days to ready our Stateside active divisions for movement. Likewise, SHAPE estimates that Pact 50% manned divisions can fight in three to five days and their 20% cadre divisions can be combat ready in one to two weeks. The Secretary stated that someone should compare the obvious discrepancies in mobilization planning factors of US forces with those assumptions used in NATO intelligence estimates. He then observed that during the next annual preparation of MC 161, we could threaten to footnote the document, and the opposition to our view of the balance would collapse, lest 161 become a non-document for that year.

5. ~~(S)~~ Specialization

General Seith reported that Ambassador Rumsfeld had tabled the US proposals on 4 September. Secretary Schlesinger stated that specialization should not become constrained by national and institutional concerns. He observed that little progress had been made in reorganizing the central region's allied air forces in over two years of NATO study. General Seith indicated that the latest developments on that issue are encouraging. General Jones is working nearly full time on a proposal which would collocate AFGENT with the new AIRCENT at Ramstein and fully exploit our \$50 million dollar investment in the static war headquarters complex at Boerfink. Four ATAF would collocate with CENTAG at Seckenhelm. Chairman Moorer had found Hill-Norton receptive, and if that British receptivity were communicated to General Jones' working group, the new AIRCENT could be established next spring. This reorganization, if realized, will be a major achievement. Mr. Murray noted that one useful trade-off in specialization would be our acceptance of the smaller allies' buying cheaper weapons in exchange for their helping us with logistics support. General Seith stated that we need allied help on our LOCPORT shortfalls, which could be absorbed by just 10% of the allies' transportation capability. This allied assistance would save us people and time in the crucial early days of mobilization. Mr. Bartholomew noted that we have leverage in MBFR. Our allies, particularly the British, are insisting that US MBFR reductions not be in our combat units. We have said that we agree, but avoiding combat reductions must be facilitated by allied assistance in combat service support. Mr. Bartholomew added that we are drawing up a list of allied compensatory measures for US reductions. Secretary Schlesinger asserted that using European civilians in peacetime to man our LOCPORT may be feasible, but we should plan to move US manpower to replace them after mobilization. He then noted that

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SHAPE should change its attitude toward the development of reserve forces to act as a counterpart to the Soviet forces in Western Russia.

6. ~~(S)~~ Cooperative Research and Development, Production and Procurement

Dr. Currie began by indicating he was not certain of our objectives with respect to intra-alliance cooperation. He noted that there are many unilateral service sales efforts that should be tied together in a coherent program. He suggested that the US might select one or two pressing needs for new development and focus upon them. He noted that two such needs are IFF and radar surveillance. His office is developing a conceptually stripped down version of the AWACS that could interface with allied ground and airborne equipment. He hopes to lay the groundwork for one or two high priority programs at the October CNAD meeting. Dr. Currie observed that in the past, alliance cooperation had been undermined by national concerns and that joint management of research and development was not working. Secretary Schlesinger said the concept of a lead nation with sub-contracting to other nations was workable. Dr. Currie added that our allies had developed some good low-altitude air defense weapons such as the British RAPIER and the French ROLAND. Perhaps we should demonstrate good faith by testing and purchasing one of these systems. Secretary Schlesinger stressed the need to economize on overall alliance research and development. If our allies developed an adequate weapon system we should exploit it after appropriate testing. We should stop asking ourselves if we can develop a better system because the answer will always be yes. In this way we could save some R&D money for the next generation system. Secretary Schlesinger noted that Admiral Peet was developing a strategy on security assistance that might provide some useful ideas for NATO cooperation in R&D, production and procurement. He asked Ambassador Hill to examine how to give further coherence to our approach because many of the security assistance items and practices would not be applicable to NATO.

7. ~~(S)~~ Burden Sharing/Balance of Payments

General Lobdell reported that the FRG has said it will offer an offset sum about equal to that in the last agreement, DM2 billion for procurement and DM600 million for facilities rehabilitation. The US will press for direct budgetary support and military sales with monetary measures as an alternative to complete our offset objective. Treasury will have to withdraw its objection to capital improvements like facilities rehabilitation which are not line items in the DOD budget. General Lobdell observed that bilateral success with the Germans would not be enough to satisfy Congress, and that a multilateral burden sharing program was also needed. NATO has formed an ad hoc group which is examining US economic data. Ambassador Rumsfeld is urging the group to focus on possible solutions and to provide a proposal to the NAC by 1 October. Mr. Murray raised the

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possibility of a pool arrangement, with the US receiving first priority now. The Secretary agreed that ultimately we need a pool arrangement. He added that any multilateral burden sharing contract should be flexible to allow for shifts in balance of payments positions of NATO nations.

8. ~~(S)~~ Tactical Nuclear Weapons

General Lobdell reported that ISA and AE were preparing a briefing on new and improved tactical nuclear weapons that might be used to modernize the NATO stockpile. This briefing will be presented informally on 12 September to the FRG and UK members of NPG's Phase II Study Team. On the basis of this briefing and reactions to it, ISA would prepare a presentation for SecDef to give at the 6-7 November NPG meeting. A draft of this briefing as well as one on the strategic balance would be sent to the Secretary in early October.

9. (U) Legislative Affairs

Dr. Wolthuis observed that DOD had fared well in the House of Representatives except for the Aspin Amendment on across-the-board, 5% troop cuts. The task will be more difficult in the Senate. We expect to defeat any amendment giving the Congress authority annually to approve troop levels abroad. But Senator Mansfield will probably offer a scaled down version of his 150,000 troop cut amendment in either the DOD authorization or appropriation bill. Our strategy for the last months of this session is to fight for the DOD position in the conference committee.

10. (U) Public Affairs

Mr. Friedheim reported that verbatim transcripts of SecDef testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had been mailed out to some 500 leadership groups. Public Affairs was developing as much publicity for the bilateral DOD visits as the Ministers would permit. As well PA was assigning top priority to sanitizing committee transcripts for public release, and as the NATO Task Force produced unclassified briefings and fact sheets, PA would distribute them.

11. ~~(S)~~ Closing Remarks

In closing the meeting, the Secretary observed:

- The US had persevered for three years in its attempt to reorganize the central region air forces in spite of an implicit British veto. He opined that no one could defend the existing ATAF organization. The British must recognize that we cannot tolerate irrationality. He suggested that we might consider withholding support for some UK programs if the British were not more forthcoming.

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- We must show results in the NATO Action Program by December. Neither the Congress of the American public will tolerate less. We cannot afford a NATO-typical, 3-year dillydally.
- We needed a kind of FYDP, a set of priority tasks for NATO.
- The US must speak with one voice on NATO matters. This one voice included the services, JCS, and Americans serving on NATO international staffs. Ambassador Hill should make certain that all on-going communications on NATO are fully coordinated.
- We are making progress on subsidiary tasks like building shelters, but we are achieving relatively little progress on a reassessment of the conventional balance and its implications for a cohesive strategy. The principal barrier to this reassessment appears to be the British.

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Distribution

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