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Folder "NATO 400-450 1976"

Box 77, 78-00 pg

#12

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

CM-1159-76

8 OCT 1976

AWACS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: NATO AEW Program - Action Memorandum (U)

1. (U) Reference ASD/ISA Memorandum I-10675/76, subject as above, which is presently undergoing staff coordination. Attachment 1 to the memorandum states that separate messages addressing NATO AEW matters peculiar to the UK and the FRG will follow.

2. ~~I~~ I recognize the importance of current efforts to concentrate support for a positive procurement decision by Ministers at the December DPC meeting, and appreciate the criticality of strong FRG support. It is becoming increasingly evident that the success of the NATO AEW program depends largely upon the cooperative efforts of the US and the FRG, and it is believed that this circumstance must be conveyed to MOD Leber in the most forceful terms.

3. (U) The attached draft letter is therefore forwarded for your consideration as a correspondence which would in fact stress the FRG's central role and clearly underscore the urgent need for Mr. Leber to revitalize efforts to gain his country's financial support.

4. (U) Without the attachments, this memorandum is CONFIDENTIAL and subject to GDS 31 December 1982.

(Sgd) GEORGE S. BROWN

GEORGE S. BROWN, General, USAF  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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Authority: EO 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Date: SEP 14 2018

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 14 SEP 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552

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~~DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1994~~

18-M-2086

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DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Folder, "NATO400-450 1976"  
Box 77, 78-0049

NOV 1976  
1 Nov 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: NATO AWACS - ACTION MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this memorandum is to apprise you of discussions on NATO AWACS at the CNAD meeting, held on October 26 and 27 in Brussels.

As a result of discussions with my counterparts Cliff Cornford, UK, and Hans Eberhard, FRG, and also NATO Assistant Secretary General Laberge and General Haig, I feel that the time is now ripe for your strong personal involvement directly to Minister Leber and to Minister Mulley toward insuring NATO AWACS.

Minister Mulley, despite very strong industrial and labor pressure supporting NIMROD in light of the sharp devaluation of sterling this week, and even some support from the Royal Air Force for their own "national AEW force", has personally decided to support AWACS. Key factors in this decision are the increased contribution to NATO defense of AWACS vs. NIMROD, and the significant financial offset to the UK inherent in the AWACS program; Mulley will coordinate this decision with his fellow ministers toward achieving full government support; it is clear that Mulley's decision can stand only for a short time (probably 1-2 months) and will collapse under the sustained NIMROD pressure in the absence of support from Germany.

Cornford feels that the UK absolutely must have, by the DPC in December, Leber's personal decision to support AWACS for submission to the Bundestag, and UK must have FRG Bundestag approval by March 1977.

Minister Leber, despite universal agreement that Germany more than any other ally benefits greatly from NATO AWACS, has failed to formally commit the MOD to AWACS support. His major reason for this delay, the FRG elections, is no longer valid. Eberhard feels that, although he (Eberhard) personally supports AWACS, insufficient top-level U.S. pressure has been brought on the FRG officials, and an AWACS decision by FRG could be delayed until the middle of next year. This would insure UK selection of NIMROD and failure of the NATO AWACS program.

Cornford urges that you personally pressure Minister Leber at the upcoming NPG meeting to declare formal support for AWACS at the

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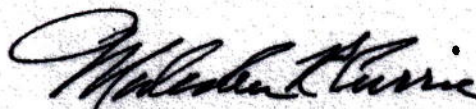


December DPC meeting. Further, Cornford feels that lack of this FRG position at the DPC will force Mulley and the UK to finally go NIMROD. Mulley is scheduled to see Leber 2-3 November, and AWACS is one of two agenda items.

I recommend that you talk to Minister Mulley at your earliest convenience and ask his support for NATO AWACS. Cornford assures me that Mulley will do this, although in "general terms" and still caveated by the necessity for a "NATO program".

Further, I recommend that you, either personally or together with Mulley, indicate in the strongest terms to Leber the need for his formal support at the DPC, and Bundestag approval by spring, and that failure of NATO AWACS resulting from FRG inaction, and its consequent impact upon NATO's defensive posture, can be laid squarely at the feet of Germany.

It appears that if these actions are taken, NATO AWACS has a better-than-even chance of approval, but that lack of this action in the next 3-4 weeks could likely cause collapse of one of our major efforts towards rationalization and cohesion in NATO.

  
MALCOLM R. CURRIE

cc: ASD(ISA)

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