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POINT PAPER FOR SECDEF/MOD FRG LEBER MEETING

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

SUBJECT: US Tank Shortfall In Europe

SEP 21 2018

BACKGROUND. Although USAREUR's tank authorization is 2778, there are less than 2,000 in Europe. By the end of CY 75, the inventory will resemble these projections:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AUTH.</u>	<u>O/H</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
TOE/TDA	1698	1698	0
PONCUS	591	347	244
WAR RESERVE	<u>498</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>448</u>
TOTAL	2778	2086	692

The current Army plan does not call for the restoration of the existing authorized level until CY 79. Depending upon decisions on Israeli requirements, even that date could slip.

POINTS

- Despite our increased production and conversion of tanks, we projected continued tank shortfalls in FRG for the next three years.
- These shortfalls have necessitated the substitution of "light" for "heavy" divisions in our early reinforcement plans. Additionally, the shortages complicate our MBFR negotiating position, in which we want to be prepared to accept (if necessary) a ceiling on Soviet and US tanks and certain nuclear elements. We oppose any ceiling on non-US NATO equipment as part of an MBFR agreement.
- We are, therefore, seeking ways of programming other stocks into the PONCUS and War Reserve. Two alternatives which have occurred to us involve cooperative programs with the FRG.
  - One alternative would be for us to acquire any surplus M48s which may be available from your stocks as a result of the Leopard I coming completely into service.
  - A second alternative would be for us to ship some of our 90mm M48s to the FRG.
- In either event, we would plan to convert the M48s involved to M48A5, with 105mm gun and diesel engine.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
 Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
 Date: 21 Sep 76(19) Authority: EO 13526 + 5 USC § 552  
 Declassify: 7 Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MDR: 14 -M- 2040

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18-M-2040

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