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11 MAY 1981



POLICY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

8 MAY 1981

In reply refer to:  
I-20268/81

NATO 471.61

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Status of Implementing the LRTNF Modernization Decision --  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (U)

(U) This memorandum responds to your March 10 request to be kept advised on a monthly basis on the status of implementing NATO's Long-Range Theater Nuclear Forces (LRTNF) decision. On 1 April we provided you with a report (TAB A) on the history of our implementation activities. This memorandum picks up from there.

Basing Status

(#) United Kingdom:

-- Preliminary site construction work (e.g., pavement, utilities) began early this year. Construction of buildings will get underway this summer. We anticipate no major difficulties in meeting the December 1983 IOC date.

(#) Italy:

-- On 1 April Defense Minister Lagorio approved the 22 April visit of an architectural and engineering design survey team to the GLCM site at Comiso.

-- Lagorio announced at the Bonn NPG Ministerial the release of site documents to NATO for approval of funding for GLCM facilities construction (but we have yet to receive confirmation that this has happened).

-- There is a staff-level debate over whether we are so far behind in Italy that we cannot make the planned initial operational capability (IOC) date of March 1984. Some in the Air Force are claiming that we will miss the date by six months. We are working with appropriate offices to determine what the true picture is and what measures need to be taken to keep deployments on track.

(8 MAY 81)

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(S) Federal Republic of Germany:

*They  
General  
Brenett*

-- For reasons that are not clear, Defense Minister Apel does not intend to provide a formal reply to our October 1980 request for FRG agreement to base GLCMs at Wueschheim. This request not only asked for permission to use the proposed base, but also for German commitments on certain technical questions (e.g., to make certain pieces of real estate available for a training area). Without a reply from Apel, we will need to work out the technical details with the German MOD staff.

-- We need not worry now about GLCM site preparations given the March 1986 IOC date. PERSHING II basing preparations are not at issue either since no new facilities construction is required for PERSHING II to replace PERSHING IAs in US units.

(S) Belgium:

-- Although the Belgian Government fell on March 31 (over a domestic economic issue) we understand that the change of government will not affect the MFA/MOD plan to proceed with GLCM site preparations. We will continue our technical-level exchanges with the Belgians and assist them in preparing their request for NATO funding of GLCM facilities.

-- Efforts to obtain Cabinet approval for a public announcement on site preparations, however, will be deferred until at least the fall.

(S) Netherlands:

-- There has been no significant change in the Dutch position on GLCM basing. Elections in May could conceivably change the situation, but most experts in Dutch politics agree that there is no coalition likely to emerge from the elections which could deliver a positive decision to accept GLCMs.

Funding for LRTNF

(S) NATO Funding:

-- On 3 April the NATO Military Committee approved the GLCM concept of operations, including the hardened shelter, which was a necessary step for NATO Infrastructure funding. The next step in getting NATO funding is to obtain the NATO Military Committee's, and then Infrastructure Committee's, approval of SHAPE's criteria and standards for GLCM facilities construction. While this part of the process may take 2-3 months, we believe the Infrastructure

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Committee will make available, prior to formal approval, those funds needed in May for operational facility construction in the UK and Italy.

(#) US GLCM Funding:

-- The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) zeroed out the R&D monies for GLCM included in the FY 1981 Supplemental (though strangely they kept in our procurement request). The apparent objection was concern over cost growth in the program.

-- R&E met with key HASC staffers to assure them we have a handle on the cost problems and succeeded in persuading them to restore the FY 81 Supplemental funds for GLCM. The House Appropriations Committee, however, while approving our FY 81 Supplemental request for GLCM RDT&E, reduced our procurement request.

-- With regard to the FY 82 Budget, we understand that the HASC will reduce our GLCM R&D request thereby eliminating our add-on and putting us back to the Carter FYDP level. We are working with R&E on resolving these problems with the appropriate Congressional staffs.

Technical Status of LRTNF Development Programs

(U) GLCM:

-- The development and test program is on schedule. The critical design review of the Common Weapons Control System (CWCS) was successfully completed with the hardware and software contractors on April 14. (The CWCS earlier caused a six-month delay in the test program.)

(U) Pershing II:

-- The Army's major component testing of the Pershing II missile continues. All of the tests have been successful.

(#) TNF Arms Control Track

-- The TNF arms control track was a key topic discussed at the May NAC Ministerial in Rome. As you know, the NSC meeting on April 30 provided the basis for decisions on the US position at the NAC. In the period ahead, we will be intensifying internal work relating to preparations for resumption of TNF talks with the Soviets and for consultations we will be conducting with the Allies in the High Level Group and the Special Consultative Group.

*Fred C. Ikle*  
Fred C. Ikle

1 Attachment  
a/s

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
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