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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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13 Feb 75

The Honorable Georg Leber  
Minister of Defense  
Ministry of Defense  
5300 Bonn 1  
Postfach 161  
Federal Republic of Germany

Folder "MDD 920.2 (Jan - Mar)  
1975, Box 73, 78-058,330

Dear Georg,

Thank you for your letter of 15 January concerning discussions with General Davison on the status of plans to increase the combat capability of US Forces in the Federal Republic.

As you know, one of the principal objectives we want to accomplish in stationing additional forces in Europe is to give a clear signal to the Warsaw Pact that NATO forces possess the flexibility to meet the threat wherever it materializes. That is the main reason we are considering deployment of one of the new US brigades in NORTHAG or near enough to be able to move into that sector rapidly, if required.

The alternative your letter suggests of moving a German brigade to the north and substituting a US brigade in the south may very well accomplish our mutual purpose. Another alternative might be to place the US brigade in the CENTAG sector but allow it to conduct training activities in the NORTHAG sector.

I agree that General Davison should study such alternatives with your staff on a priority basis. I believe we should also obtain NATO comments on our stationing proposals before reaching a final conclusion.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 10 Sep 79 Authority: EO 13526 + S. 1.6552  
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