

~~SECRET~~

Hold

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

16 AUG 83 12 32

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SECRET

15 AUG 1983

In reply refer to:
I-23832/83



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY) *ZI* 16 Aug 1983

SUBJECT: USCENTCOM Forward Headquarters Element (U) - ACTION MEMORANDUM

3) The attached memorandum to the President has been revised to reflect your thoughts on Egypt and adds a discussion of Jordan. These changes made the memorandum a bit less negative than before as we have indicated that we will expand the search for a suitable location to establish an FHE, in addition to continuing our efforts with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain.

4) The memorandum, however, still requests an extension to the "end of summer" deadline. The only option that we could implement before that time is the small afloat option which the JCS say would be militarily ineffective. We also still believe that to push too hard for an ashore FHE could be counterproductive.

5) You also mentioned the possibility of establishing an FHE in Turkey or Lebanon. These states have not been considered because they are both outside USCENTCOM's area of responsibility and there would be strong political backlashes in taking such actions. If USCENTCOM were forced to establish an FHE outside its area, it could send the wrong signal, to both friend and foe, regarding its acceptability to the Southwest Asian states. With respect to Turkey, the Turks are extremely sensitive about US initiatives in the Persian Gulf area. They have consistently demanded that all our military dealings with them be done in a European/NATO context. It would be difficult, therefore, to approach Turkey about hosting a USCENTCOM FHE unless there were a significant change in the Turkish attitude toward Southwest Asia. In Lebanon, there would be serious security considerations, as you noted. Moreover, it would be awkward to approach Lebanon at a time when we are attempting to remove all foreign forces from its territory.

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

JUL 16 2018

~~Classified by: ASD/ISA
Declassify on: OADR~~

380-85-0023, bx 5, CENTCOM

~~SECRET~~

See Def Cont Br.

58/38/123
X26728



18-M-1507

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

-2-

I was reluctant to ask you to respond to the White House in a negative fashion. But given the situation and the earnest efforts to date to establish an FHE in the region, it is better to request an extension of a rather arbitrary deadline than to force ourselves into doing something we might regret. We will, of course, continue to do everything possible to establish an FHE and, in the process, we will keep the White House informed of our progress.

This is a judgment call on my part. Should you not agree with the thrust of this memo, I'll work toward any direction you suggest -- however, I feel that I must point out to you the enormity of the task of establishing an FHE at all, not to mention within an "end of summer" deadline.

R.L. Armitage
Richard L. Armitage

*I fully agree with Rich, above.
In the long-run, if all goes well in Lebanon,
that country might be an excellent place.
Turkey, I believe, is out.
Fred.*

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 16 Jul 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 18 -M- 1507

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

JUL 16 2018

