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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: SEP 20 2018

25 APR 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: GLCM Deployment Plans (U)

I found very useful your country-by-country review of the status of GLCM basing in Europe. You raised several important issues that will require constant attention to ensure that the Alliance's INF Deployments proceed on schedule. In this regard, we must continue to undertake the measures necessary to meet all operational capability dates.

With respect to GLCM deployment in the United Kingdom, even with the adjustments in the dates for major equipment arrivals and off-base training, I am satisfied with our revised plans whereby the Air Force will deploy a launch-capable GLCM flight at RAF Greenham Common as planned by the end of December 1983.

You pointed out that the dual control issue in Italy might delay our efforts to meet the schedule for GLCM deployment at Comiso, Sicily. At our request, the Italians have agreed to separate discussion of this politically sensitive issue from the on-going bilateral military-to-military negotiations on the Technical Arrangement governing GLCM basing at Comiso. I do not expect the discussions on nuclear control to delay GLCM deployments in Italy. As to Defense Minister Lagorio's maintaining close supervision over basing preparations, we should anticipate that he will continue to review carefully all aspects of GLCM basing preparations in light of the political visibility of this issue in his country. We will have to work closely with the Ministry of Defense through our Embassy in Rome to satisfy Minister Lagorio's concerns and yet meet the Alliance's deployment schedule.

Of particular concern to me is your assessment that basing preparations in Belgium are two years behind schedule. My staff will be working with yours to develop ways to bring the base construction schedule at Florennes in line with the March 1985 operational capability date. Embassy Brussels has been instructed to inform the appropriate MOD officials that it appears not all of the planned facilities will be ready by the operational capability date, and consequently we will have to examine options to ensure that the mutually agreed deployment date is met.

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Finally, with regard to GLCM basing in The Netherlands, it is unlikely that the Dutch Government will make a formal decision on site selection until Fall. In the meantime, we should continue to work with the MOD to accomplish as much site design work and other technical tasks as possible consistent with the government's decision to proceed with basing preparations to keep open the option of GLCM deployment.

During the critical period that lies ahead in 1993, it is essential that we maintain the momentum behind the Alliance's IMF deployment program. I am counting on the Air Force to field the Ground-Launched Cruise Missile system on schedule in each of the European basing countries, in the absence of reaching an arms reduction agreement in Geneva.

*Spp*

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

Date: ~~20 SEP 2018~~ Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552

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