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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 1 OF 2: USNATO 6507 129712/16
E.O. 11652: ~~TOP~~
TAGS: DPC, MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: SACEUR COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT

REF: A. STATE 289600 DTG 201356Z NOV 76
B. USNATO 6493 DTG 271018Z NOV 76

SUMMARY: AT PRIVATE DPC NOV 26, SACEUR DELIVERED A FORCEFUL, COGENT AND HARD-HITTING PRESENTATION ON THE STATE OF COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF ACE FORCES. FULL TEXT, REF B WILL PROVIDE USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR PRINCIPALS ATTENDING FORTHCOMING DPC AND MAC MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. REACTION OF SYG,

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CNC AND THOSE FOUR PERMPREBS WHO SPOKE (ITALY, FRG, TURKEY, US) WAS SUPPORTIVE, REFLECTING INTENTION TO INSURE THAT INFORMATION PRESENTED BY SACEUR ON DEFICIENCIES IN ACE FORCES GETS HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW IN CAPITALS, END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRIVATE DPC SESSION NOV 26 TO CONSIDER SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT, BYG LUNS OPENED THE MEETING BY NOTING THAT SACEUR'S PRESENTATION WOULD BE MOST TIMELY. THE NOV 24 PRESENTATION BY THE DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY DIVISION, COVERING THE 1976 NATO DEFENSE REVIEW, HAD SHOWN A GENERAL FAILURE OF NATO COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES WHICH MINISTERS THEMSELVES HAD SET IN MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. THE EFFECT OF THIS FAILURE HAD BEEN CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S SUITABILITY AND RISK STATEMENT. LUNS NOTED THAT SACEUR'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT HAD STRUCK A SIMILAR THEME, AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THOSE IN NATO CAPITALS WHO CARE CONCERNED WITH DEFENSE POLICY, AND PARTICULARLY WITH THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO DEFENSE.

2. GENERAL HAIG THEN DELIVERED HIS PRESENTATION, THE COMPLETE TEXT OF WHICH WE HAVE TRANSMITTED REF B.

3. FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION, BYG LUNS NOTED THAT IT PRESENTED A SOMBER, DISTURBING PICTURE. THE TRENDS NOTED BY GENERAL HAIG, HE SAID, WERE THE SAME AS THOSE REFLECTED IN THE 1976 GENERAL REPORT, WHICH ARE INDEED ALARMING. GENERAL HAIG HAD, HOWEVER, OUTLINED THESE TRENDS IN ELOQUENT AND STARK TERMS WHEN RESOURCES ARE INSUFFICIENT, THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR FORCES DECLINES. LUNS HAD HIMSELF, HE SAID, REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION FROM HIS READING OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW AND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SUITABILITY AND RISK STATEMENT, AND WOULD HIGHLIGHT IT IN HIS SUMMARY APPRAISAL.

4. LUNS NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO GENERAL HAIG'S REMARKS ON THE USE OF WARNING TIME. HE NOTED THAT TIMELY ACTION WILL NOT AGGRAVATE A CRISIS, INDEED, IT MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO DEFUSE IT. IF NATIONS DO NOT ACT IN A TIMELY WAY, LUNS SAID, "OUR GOOSE WILL BE COOKED -- OR BURNT." LUNS SAID THAT THE ALLIANCE IS NOW CONFRONTED BY THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF LAND, AIR AND NAVAL POWER THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER

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SEEN, AND IT IS IN THE HANDS OF A GROUP OF MEN WHO SEEK TO SUBMERGE THE WHOLE WORLD. IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT MINISTERS WOULD MEET THE WEEK AFTER NEXT AT A CRITICAL POINT IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ALLIANCE - WHICH COULD BE SUMMED UP SIMPLY AS "WILL THE WEST MEET THE CHALLENGE OR WILL IT RETREAT FROM THEM?" LUNS ASKED THAT PERMRERS SEND THE TEXT OF SACEUR'S PRESENTATION TO THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES IN THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND PARTICULARLY TO INSURE THAT FINANCE MMINISTERS WERE EXPOSED TO IT.

5. ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL-NORTON (CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE) SAID THAT HE HAD NO DIFFERENCE OF VIEW WITH THE THOUGHT THAT GENERAL HAIG HAD EXPRESSED, NOT EVEN A MINOR ONE. "HE'S SAID IT ALL," HILL-NORTON SAID, "AND BETTER THAN I COULD." ADIRAL HILL-NORTON HIGHLIGHTED PARTICULARLY GENERAL HAIG'S REMARKS REGARDING FAILURE OF NATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE FORCE GOALS, THE NEED TO MANAGE LOGISTICS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMANDERS, AND THE POOR STATE OF READINESS OF RESERVE FORCES. HE CALLED FOR POLITICAL WILL TO DEAL WITH ALLIANCE PROBLEMS AND HOPED THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING WOULD PROVIDE AN OCCASION FOR US "MORALLY TO REARM OURSELVES."

6. CATALANO (ITALY) THANKED GENERAL HAIG FOR A "WELL BALANCED AND SOBER EXPOSE." HE SAID THAT THE PRESENTATION HAD NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING, BUT THAT THERE WAS INDEED A NEED TO AVOID EXTREMES EITHER OF ALARM OR COMPLACENCY. HE WONDERED AROUND IF THERE WOULD BE A RESURGENCE OF THE MOOD OF TURNING AWAY FROM EUROPE IN THE US IF EUROPE DOES NOT FULFILL ITS ENGAGEMENTS, AND NOTED THAT THE SITUATION WAS MORE FAVORABLE, BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS WISE, NOW THAN IT HAD BEEN DURING THE RESURGENCE OF THAT MOOD IN THE EARLY 70S.

7. PAULS (FRG) SAID THAT SACEUR'S PRESENTATION WAS THE MOST DRAMATIC THING HE HAD HEARD IN HIS TOUR AT NATO, THE MORE SO SINCE GENERAL HAIG HAD NOT SPOKEN DRAMATICALLY; THE FACTS THEMSELVES WERE DRAMATIC. HE SAID THAT THE TEXT OF GENERAL HAIG'S PRESENTATION WOULD GO TO BONN, AS IT SHOULD TO ALL ALLIED CAPITALS, WITH STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE DEFICIENCIES BE DEALT WITH.

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IT WAS PARTICULARLY NECESSARY, PAULS SAID, FOR BUDGET COMMITTEES IN PARLIAMENTS TO HEAR IT, REGARDING USE OF WARNING TIME, PAULS SAID THAT "TO STAY PASSIVE DIRECTLY PROVOKES THE OTHER SIDE," PAULS ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO ANOUNCE THAT THE FRG HAD DECIDED, DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES, TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADDED INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS REQUIRED. HE LOOKED ON THIS AS EVIDENCE OF THE EMPHASIS PLACED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ON THE NECESSITY FOR INTEGRATED DEFENSE AND COESION IN ALLIANCE DEFENSE PLANNING.

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