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DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Folder "Europe" 23 1973

Box 16330-78-0001

51 Oct. 73

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Meeting in Europe, 22-26 October 1973

Our trip to Europe had two major objectives:

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1. CNAD and associated meetings on overall NATO Armaments Cooperation, with emphasis on US initiatives in AWACS, Low Altitude Forward Area Air Defense System (LOFAADS), and Airborne Electronic Warfare; and
2. US-UK-FRG (and possibly French) cooperation on selection of a common gun and ammunition for future main battle tanks, together with exploring other possible areas of tank cooperation.

The first objective involved participation at the CNAD, and separate discussions with Ambassador Rumsfeld, US Mission NATO; General Goodpaster, SACEUR; and Generals Steinhoff and Milton of the NATO Military Committee. The second objective involved inspection of advanced British armor, tank gun and associated work at the UK Armor Facility at Chertsey; LEOPARD II briefing and hardware demonstration at Krauss-Maffei in Munich; and a tripartite (US-UK-FRG) meeting in Bonn on tank gun standardization and other possible areas of tank cooperation.

Excellent and immediate response was received in all areas (with the exception of airborne electronic warfare, which will require more push).

1. CNAD and Four Power (US-UK-FR-FRG) approved operational, technical and industrial studies of AWACS as a common NATO system, to be presented to the spring 1974 CNAD and the June 1974 Ministerials for approval, if the results are positive.

2. Ambassador Rumsfeld and Generals Goodpaster, Steinhoff and Milton committed their full support for AWACS as a common NATO system if presented under US sponsorship at the December 1973 Ministerials

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3. NATO allies are reacting very favorably to, and closely watching, the US initiative in selecting an all-weather LOFAADS (probably European), and its possible resultant adoption by some other NATO allies.

4. CNAD agreed on improved coordination between critical priorities of the NATO Military Committee and areas of CNAD emphasis.

5. Tripartite (US-UK-FRG) group agreed to immediately initiate a plan to evaluate various candidates and select a common gun and ammunition for future main battle tanks by fall 1975. Signature approvals of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Defense Ministers are to be obtained prior to the December 1973 DPC.

As a result of these responses, actions are required by yourself, DDR&E, the Services, allied governments and by key NATO personnel. These actions are covered at the end of this report. Following are other brief highlights of each meeting:

CNAD, 23-25 October 1973, Brussels

o US strategy focused its efforts on the three areas in first paragraph. Other areas were discussed, in which action is premature at this time:

- o Air-launched and surface-launched tactical missiles
- o New NATO Rifle
- o Mortar/Artillery-locating Radar
- o Close-in Ship Defense Systems
- o NATO Industrial Advisory Group
- o Logistics

o Lukewarm reception was received to US initiative recommending that allies provide electronic warfare capability (flares, chaff, jamming, pilot training, etc.) to 2800 NATO aircraft presently without capability. US recommendations being studied.

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o FRG-UK-FR effort in defining a new NATO Medium SAM is lagging. Continuing slippage could delay the planned US-allied discussions on the applicability of SAM-D technology to Medium SAM, with possible re-direction to SAM-D, beyond the point of being effective.

Ambassador Rumsfeld Meeting, 23 October 1973, Brussels

o Strongly supports NATO AWACS, but sees some political problems, especially acquiring sufficient Infrastructure funding in the face of other priorities.

o Recommended that Secretary Schlesinger and Secretary Kissinger present NATO AWACS proposal to DPC and NAC respectively in December 1973.

o Will do all possible to aid NATO AWACS success, and to aid in other NATO cooperative armaments initiatives.

General Goodpaster Meeting, 25 October 1973, SHAPE Headquarters

o SHAPE places highest priority on standardization in armaments.  
Discussed Goodpaster to Schlesinger letter, dated 23 October 1973 on this subject.

o Lauded US initiative in common gun/ammunition for tanks, AWACS, LOFAADS, electronic warfare.

o AWACS gives NATO "unique" capability. SHAPE will push program if Secretary Schlesinger presents NATO-AWACS at December 1973 DPC. Also, if Ministers and Military Committee request a position on AWACS, SHAPE will give full backing.

o AWACS funding will be difficult under Infrastructure due to other priorities, but not impossible. A viable alternative is to establish a special program managed under Infrastructure.

o Airborne Electronic Warfare is a basic problem with our allies, who do not want to divert funding from aircraft purchase to "ancillary" aircraft equipment. General Dougherty of SHAPE will visit Dr. Currie to discuss US initiative on electronic warfare.

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Generals Steinhoff/Milton Meeting, 24 October 1973, Brussels

o AWACS necessary for NATO forces and will receive full support of NATO Military Committee. SEA and Middle East experience supports this need.

o NATO AWACS difficult to fund from Infrastructure with present priorities. US should consider a reduction in NATO aircraft shelter requirements from 100% to 70%, thus freeing large funding for AWACS. Military Committee feels that this shelter reduction would have a minor impact on capability and security of ACE forces.

o Military Committee very pleased with US initiatives in tank gun and other areas, and want to have increased coordination with CNAD and US in this regard.

US-UK Meeting on Tank Developments, 22 October 1973

o We inspected UK hardware developments. UK program on new MBT with special armor and all-aluminum hull was initiated in mid-1960's, with CY 1976 IOC but cancelled last year due to funding constraints. UK feels that all risk has been removed (one prototype has over 12,000 miles testing successfully so far).

o UK 110mm rifled tank gun development progressing well, with high British confidence they will be selected in competitive shoot-off with FRG 120mm smooth-bore and 105mm US approach. British feel that logistics impact of calibre change stated by US is exaggerated, and could be brought into acceptable bounds.

o We were very impressed with UK developments. UK wondered why the US XM-1 tank development contemplates the hull/armor development as "risk," and feel we are duplicating at considerable expense what has already been done. They also emphasized the low cost of developing and building tank prototypes based on mods to the Chieftain: 17 tank prototypes for \$30M.

US/FRG Meeting/Demonstration on LEOPARD II, 25 October 1973, Munich

o Observed field demonstration and rode in LEOPARD I and II. Also drove LEOPARD I. Compared to existing tanks, LEOPARD II has vastly superior acceleration, horsepower to weight ratio, over-land mobility, and fire power. Clearly the world's best existing tank.

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o Armor protection is not adequate for near-term threats; however, FRG studies indicate special armor similar to US/UK armor could be installed with a 3-ton weight penalty (approximately same overall weight as XM-1). Fire control and night vision equipment are excellent, but complex and costly.

o Sixteen prototypes are being completed, with several already complete and through significant testing. (A LEOPARD II chassis has been under evaluation at Aberdeen since this summer.)

US-UK-FRG Meeting on Tank Gun, 26 October 1973, Bonn

o Tripartite group agreed to commence immediately a program for evaluation of national gun candidates and selection of a common gun and ammunition for future main battle tank.

o MOU is being drafted for signature by US-UK-FRG Defense Ministers prior to December 1973 DPC.

o Planned target dates are: June 1974 for evaluation models; June 1975 for gun/ammunition testing; and September 1975 for final selection.

o France will be formally invited to participate after US-UK-FRG agreement on evaluation model. However, France will be informed of the plan in early 1974 to allow sufficient lead time for planning.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- SecDef 1. Request support of Defense Ministers Carrington, Leber and Galley on NATO AWACS when US presents plan at December 1973 DPC. (Sign attached letters.)
2. Request review of US position on 100% aircraft sheltering for NATO aircraft to determine if a lower percentage such as 70% is adequate. (Sign attached memorandum.)
3. Request Air Force to fully support NATO AWACS initiative. (Sign attached memorandum.)
4. Sign MOU on Tank Gun prior to December 1973 DPC.
5. Discuss NATO AWACS and tank gun programs with NATO Ministers at appropriate bi-laterals.

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1. Continue as OSD focus for NATO AWACS, tank gun and electronic warfare initiatives.
  2. Sustain support of Ambassador Rumsfeld, Generals Goodpaster, Steinhoff and Milton. (See attached letters.)
  3. Obtain 4-Party concurrence on CNAD work statement on NATO AWACS at 13 November 1973 Principals Meeting and submit to NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defense Support.
  4. Prepare SecDef Statement on NATO AWACS for December 1973 DPC.
  5. Complete tripartite coordination and agreement on tank gun MOU.
  6. Together with I&L and JCS, insure CNAD initiatives are more responsive to NATO Military Committee priorities.

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