

(16)



~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Folder 'NATO 320.2
(Aug-Sep) 1973' #17
Box 75, 330-78-0001

26 SEP 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: MBFR: U.S. Reduction Alternatives (U)

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: NOV 09 2010

You directed the DOD MBFR Task Force, working with the JCS and DPA&E, to develop and evaluate for your review alternative methods of taking the 29,000 U.S. ground personnel MBFR reduction. At Tab A is a Task Force summary which examines two basic reduction alternatives, drawing on the JCS analysis and recommendation which you requested (Tab B). The alternatives are:

- A JCS/CINCEUR recommended "combat component" alternative which includes 10 combat battalions constituting 25% of the 29,000 men withdrawn, with 75% taken in support elements.
- An "all support" alternative which would take the reduction entirely in support elements, transferring certain functions to the Allies to facilitate this.

The alternatives were not developed to the level of detail and specificity that will be required for actual implementation. Rather, the thrust of the effort was to delineate them sufficiently to permit informed choice of a preferred reduction concept on which we could then concentrate our further work. We need such a decision at this point in DOD and in Washington and Brussels, to permit us to focus the DOD effort and to get Allied agreement to our overall MBFR approach before negotiations begin on 30 October.

Accordingly, we have included two memoranda for your signature; one to the Washington community which recommends that we pursue the all-support alternative and approach our Allies on that basis; and the second to the CJCS which directs further development of the support alternative, together with contingency alternatives.

The case for the support alternative is made in the attached memorandum to the Washington community. Giving full weight to the JCS/CINCEUR recommendation, our broader purposes in MBFR and in NATO policy generally seem best served by starting with a position that seeks to avoid combat reductions. We do have to recognize that it may be difficult to get the

~~CLASSIFIED BY ASO/LBA~~
~~EXEMPT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE~~
~~EXEMPT UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652~~
~~EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED~~
~~EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON 11/11/00~~

R&A (W)

18-M-2005
Sec Def Has Sec: 4112
4111
SEC DEF CONTR No. X-
5 OCT 1973

~~SECRET~~

level and kind of Allied cooperation in making the U.S. support reduction that we might need, and it is clear that the negotiating situation may lead to a different outcome. Accordingly, we need to examine what the alternatives to our preferred approach might be under both contingencies but we need not decide now how we would move should they arise.

The immediate step before us -- assuming your signature on the attached memoranda -- will be to develop specific support reduction proposals, including specific Allied actions, which we could advance in Brussels. This will need to be coordinated with the actions we are considering in the context of NATO force restructuring and the line we are taking on burden sharing and offset. Some of the offset measures we have advanced (e.g., payment of local taxes) are not relevant to the kinds of cooperation we would be asking our Allies for in the MBFR area. On the other hand, if we are successful in getting the Allies to assume responsibility for support functions which facilitate the U.S. MBFR reduction, this could also contribute to our budget and BOP offset objectives.

The JCS and CINCEUR are, of course, concerned that their views be given full weight in deciding how the U.S. reduction is taken. Thus, before signing the attached memoranda, you may wish to discuss this with the JCS at your 1 October weekly meeting. Should you do so, I think it important that you emphasize that we will look to the JCS in the first instance to develop and propose the specific steps that would be taken in pursuing the support alternative. I should note that the Joint Staff participated in the development of the Task Force report.

I am prepared to discuss this further with you should you wish.

Recommendation: That you sign the attached memoranda.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 09 Nov 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 18 -M- 2005

Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.
Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.

Coordination: ASD (ISA) *tb*

Prepared: Mr. Bartholomew, X 79347

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

NOV 09 2018

~~SECRET~~