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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

7/14/81

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

*Reply*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

7 JUL 1981

SUBJECT: Assistance for Somalia (U) - ACTION MEMORANDUM

SOMALIA

In light of the recent Ethiopian air raids on Somalia, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs has forwarded a memo to Secretary Haig recommending that he approve a number of specific initiatives for Somalia. Assistant Secretary Crocker has also recommended that Secretary Haig seek your (DoD) support for these initiatives. Several of these initiatives are purely diplomatic, the others require Defense support.

On the diplomatic side, the Africa Bureau has recommended that the US make a demarche to Ethiopia expressing concern over the recent bombings; that the US approach the Chinese (in Mogadishu) to ask that they accelerate the conditioning of the F-6's they have delivered; and that the US approach Egypt to seek help in repairing Somali SAMs. On the military side, if Secretary Haig approves, State will ask that you approve delivery of 10-12 VULCANS from Army stocks; that Defense dispatch an MTT to Somalia to help repair anti-aircraft artillery and radar; and that the Navy schedule an immediate port visit by one or two combatants. The ISA staff worked with the State and NSC staffs to help develop these options. We are prepared to proceed with implementation of those options you and Secretary Haig approve. However, we consider it likely that Army will strongly object to the VULCAN transfer (i.e., will submit a "significant adverse impact" statement). Ironically, the VULCAN will not provide the Somalis with an effective defense against Ethiopian aircraft as it is a low-altitude, short-range, point defense weapon. Knowing this, State still feels we must transfer something tangible as a symbol of support. Therefore, the decision we must make is whether the "symbolic gesture" for Somalia warrants taking the system from Army active units. Unfortunately, there is no readily available substitute that we can offer given the current funding constraints (\$40M); the most valuable assistance will come from the MTT in repairing what is already on the ground.

There are other possible options that State has not included; two of these seem to me to warrant your support: a small-scale tactical aircraft training deployment; and inclusion of Somalia in the RDF "BRIGHT STAR 82" Southwest Asia deployment exercise. These two options are more militarily demonstrative; however, a U.S. forces exercise in Somalia definitely "tilts" the U.S. toward Somalia and constitutes at least a partial de facto security guarantee.

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: FEB 26 2019

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~~(b) I therefore recommend you consider options a-d below. I further recommend you discuss these options with Secretary Haig at your Friday afternoon meeting (talking points attached).~~

OBE

  
Francis J. West, Jr.

- (b) a) Dispatch of MTT to Somalia to assist in repairing AAA and radar (funding would come from Somalia IMET)  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) b) Scheduling of an early port call (next two weeks) at Mogadishu by at least one, preferably two, US Navy surface combatants  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) c) Deployment of 4-6 US tactical aircraft to either Mogadishu or Uanle Uen (Baledogle Air Base) for a period of 2-4 days  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) d) Inclusion of Somalia as one of the RDF operating locations during "BRIGHT STAR 82" (Nov-Dec 1981)  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Office of the Secretary of Defense 50.9.C5552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 26 FEB 2019 Authority: EO 13526  
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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: FEB 26 2019

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