



INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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14 JUL 1983  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY - *JS* 14 JUL 1983

SUBJECT: Emergency Military Assistance for Chad *JS* --  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

1. *(S)* As you know, the military situation in Chad has been deteriorating rapidly. Libyan-backed rebels have been advancing toward the capital and the government of President Habre is in jeopardy despite an eleventh-hour supply effort by the French and Egyptians. Two new developments may reverse this trend, however. Habre's forces are successfully counterattacking in the East, and Zaïre has begun the dispatch of up to 1,800 combat troops and three MIRAGE fighter aircraft to Chad in Habre's defense.

CHAD

2. *(S)* In response to this Zairian initiative, the State Department has asked ISA whether DoD would support a request for authorization of emergency assistance to Chad under Section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The immediate purpose of such a request would be to provide logistical support to the Zairian forces. If subsequently required, defense materials, services, and training could also be used to support the Habre government directly or to assist other forces that come to its aid.

3. *(S)* Helping President Habre stay in power would thwart one of Qadhafi's fondest ambitions; would counter a threat to other regional states, including Sudan; would keep in office a Chadian leader capable of unifying the country after 20 years of civil war; and would honor requests from France and from pro-Western African states for a greater U.S. role in defending the government in Chad against Qadhafi's local surrogates.

4. *(S)* Therefore, I have encouraged State to press ahead with

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WNS  
Date: FEB 25 2019

*CA 380-85-0023, dx 5, Chad*



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formulating a request for 506(a) authority of \$10 million. (None of the \$75 million authorized for 506(a) drawdowns has been used this year.) In addition, I am ensuring that State Department will take steps to comply with all appropriate provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act. We are also prepared to back up State's efforts on Capitol Hill pertaining to this emergency effort. Unless you have objections, I will continue to advance along these lines.

*OK*

*Richard L. Armitage*  
RICHARD L. ARMITAGE  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(International Security Affairs)

COORDINATION:

*WHT*  
General Counsel, ODD

P.S. Mr. Secretary:

This overt military assistance to Chad doesn't get us "in front of the French," since they are now heavily committed. Also, I think it's time we made our aid to Habre more visible.

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Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 25 FEB 2019 Authority: EO 13526  
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