



~~TOP SECRET~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#14

Libya

28 MAR 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Operations in the Vicinity of Libya (U)

Attached is a copy of a memorandum I've sent to Bud McFarlane concerning military operations in the vicinity of Libya. We've revised the stair-step plan from eight steps to four steps and it now applies only to operations south of the illegal closure line at 32°30'N. Based on the lack of Libyan reactions to past operations north of that line, we believe the revised stair-step plan is sufficient to protect US military assets. We will work closely with the Department of State to ensure coordination for all operations conducted as part of the revised plan.

Sap.

Attachment

a/s X30083

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: FEB 25 2019

Office of the Secretary of Defense 505.64552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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28 MAR 84



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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

88 MAR 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Operations in the Vicinity of Libya (U)

As you are aware, there is an eight-step "stair-step plan" in effect for military operations in the vicinity of Libya. The plan covers a range of day and night operations, both north and south of the illegal, Libyan claimed closure line at 32°30'N in the Gulf of Sidra.

Since July 1982, we have conducted 15 operations as part of the stair-step plan north of the illegal closure line. Although subject to Libyan reconnaissance, none of these operations provoked a hostile reaction.

Accordingly, we would like to revise the stair-step plan by reducing it to four steps for operations south of the illegal closure line at 32°30'N (proposed plan is attached). Prior interagency review would still be required for operations in the area covered by the revised plan.

We note the latest Politically Sensitive Area List issued by the Department of State that includes a 15-mile "buffer zone" north of the illegal closing line. It should also be noted, however, that the Politically Sensitive Area List is not a static document. The President's decision directive on the exercise of navigation and overflight rights at sea (NSDD 72) clearly states that after a reasonable number of assertions of US rights against an excessive claim, advance scheduling to assert rights may not be required. Operations to date indicate that the Libyans are not treating the area of the 15-mile "buffer zone" (32°30'N to 32°45'N) as sensitive. Thus, we believe the revised stair-step plan is sufficient to protect US military assets conducting operations in the vicinity of Libya.

Says.

Attachments
a/s

Copy to: Secretary of State

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