

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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SECT 01-0F-43924

ACTION
DISTR USRMCLO(01) CJCS OJS SJCS(03) J3(08) J5(02) NMCC:(02)
SECDEF(04) SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10) ASD:PA&E(01) ASD:PA(01) DIA:
DIA(15) MCCC CMC CSAF
CNO WASH DC
SNA WASH DC
FILE(1)

(048)

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DE RUEACTA #8734 1842029

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BT

IMMEDIATE

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OO RUEKJCS

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OO RUEFHNA RUEGPO RUEGPD RUEHOT RUEBND RUDTL RUEFPD
RUFHBG RUFHRO RUBISDF RUFNPS RUESPND RUFHOL RUFHBS RUEBAY

RUESGU RUFHNA RUEFPD

DE RUEHC #3924 1841926

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUEFHNA/USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE 0000

RUEGPO/ANEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

RUEBND/ANEMBASSY MADRID 0000

BT

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Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS 5015552
Date: 21 DEC 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: Deny in Full:
Declassify in Part:
Reason:
MDR: 18-M-2047

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TAGS: NCAF, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: SECDEF MEETING WITH NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR
VAN LYNDEN, JULY 2

1. NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN MET SECDEF TO DELIVER
AND TO HIGHLIGHT FOLLOWING POINTS CONTAINED IN LETTER FROM
MOU VREDELING:

A. VREDELING'S BASIC PRINCIPLE IS THAT HIS NAME NEVER BE

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LENT TO A WEAKENING OF NATO.

B. TO MAINTAIN CURRENT FORCE LEVELS WOULD BE COST PROHIBITIVE; WITHOUT A CAPABILITY TO ACQUIRE NEW EQUIPMENT, DUTCH FORCES WOULD BECOME EMPTY SHELL.

C. DEFENSE PLANS; AS AMENDED IN COURSE OF CONSULTATIONS, PRESENT CREDIBLE, BALANCED CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON DEFENSE AND COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH PLANS OF ALL OTHER ALLIES IN COMBAT VALUE AND IN FINANCIAL TERMS.

D. OVERALL, DPC'S EVALUATION OF DUTCH DEFENSE PLANS DID NOT DO JUSTICE TO PLANS OR TO SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY WERE DEVELOPED.

E. COMPLETELY FALSE INTERPRETATION HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO DUTCH PROPOSALS CONCERNING RATIONALIZATION AND

SPECIALIZATION, WHICH ARE NOT AIMED AT ACHIEVING FORCE REDUCTIONS, BUT AT SOLVING, NOW, PROBLEMS WHICH, IF NOT ATTENDED TO, WILL BECOME INSURMOUNTABLE IN NEXT DECADE.

2. AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN CONVEYED TO SECDEF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY KONIN VAN DER STUDEL AND HOD VREDELING THAT AMENDED DUTCH DEFENSE PLANS BE ACCEPTED IN NATO. PLANS, IN THEIR JUDGMENT, PROVIDE FOR A RESPONSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE. SPECIFIC MENTION WAS MADE OF PLANS TO INCREASE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SHARE OF DEFENSE BUDGET FROM 29 TO 24 PERCENT OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD; TO CONTINUE MECHANIZATION OF RESERVE 5TH DIVISION; NOT, REPEAT NOT, TO REDUCE PEACETIME STRENGTH OF ARMY AS LONG AS PBR NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE AND HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE DESIRED RESULTS; AND, IN CONSULTATION WITH PARTIES CONCERNED, TO STUDY FURTHER MATTER OF WITHDRAWING HAWK SQUADRONS FROM FRG. VAN LYNDEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROVISIONAL PLANS SUBMITTED FOR NATO CONSULTATIONS IN MAY WERE DRAFTED IN HASTE AND CONTAINED SOME WEAKNESSES, BUT THAT THEY DESERVED BETTER TREATMENT THAN THAT ACCORDED THEM IN DPC'S REVIEW. IN CONCLUDING, AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IF NATO CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE PLANS IS TOO SHARP, SERIOUS COUNTER-EFFECTS COULD SURFACE IN THE NETHERLANDS. ON THAT BASIS, HE SOLICITED UNITED STATES SUPPORT OF AMENDED PLANS DURING THEIR REVIEW BY DPC.

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3. SECDEF NOTED THAT NATO IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY STRONG NOW, AND THAT POLITICAL COHESION IS LACKING. THE ALLIANCE'S CHIEF DEFICIENCY, IN FACE OF VAST STRATEGIC CHANGES AND PACT'S STEADY BUILDUP OF CONVENTIONAL AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES, LIES IN RELUCTANCE, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PRESSURES, TO PROVIDE SAME RESOURCES TO DEFENSE AS ARE BEING APPLIED EAST OF THE ELBE. SOVIETS DEVOTE 10 TO 12 PERCENT OF THEIR REAL RESOURCES TO DEFENSE; NATO ONCE DEVOTED 5 PERCENT, NOW DEVOTES 4 PERCENT AND SOON WILL DEVOTE 3.5 PERCENT OF ITS REAL RESOURCES TO DEFENSE. NET EFFECT IS THAT, GIVEN ARBITRARY LIMITS ON DEFENSE BUDGETS, CONVENTIONAL BALANCE WILL TILT TOWARD WARSAW PACT, AND THIS AT A TIME WHEN WE MUST DEMONSTRATE TO PACT OUR PREPAREDNESS TO MATCH ITS CAPABILITIES. REGRETTABLE TREND OF NATO NATIONS TO ADJUST FORCES DOWNWARD IS BECOMING A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE. GIVEN THAT TREND, WE CANNOT BE SANGUINE ABOUT FUTURE.

4. SECDEF SAID THAT, WHILE AMENDED DEFENSE PLANS WERE NOT AS UNACCEPTABLE AS THOSE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS, THEY LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED. WHILE UNITED STATES MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT, WITH REGRETS, DECISIONS GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS FEELS OBLIGED TO MAKE, A REDUCTION IN STRENGTH IS A REDUCTION IN STRENGTH; CAPITAL EXPENDI-

TURES MAY INCREASE, BUT ONLY AT EXPENSE OF INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS IN OTHER AREAS; AND LONG-RUN STAYING POWER OF ALLIANCE WILL BE HARD HIT. THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT LIKE TO TOLERATE DUTCH REDUCTIONS; IT COULD ACT ENDORSE THEM. IN THIS INSTANCE, AS IN OTHERS INVOLVING FORCE REDUCTION PROPOSALS, POLITICAL PRESSURES HAVE FORCED DECISION TO REDUCE; THE NETHERLANDS NOW HOPES THAT BEST POSSIBLE FACE CAN BE PUT ON WHAT IS, AT LEAST IN PART, A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

5. SECDEF RECALLED THAT, FOR PAST YEAR, HIS MESSAGE TO ALLIANCE HAD BEEN THAT WESTERN EUROPE MUST DO MORE IF UNITED STATES IS TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT COMMITMENT. AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THE CONGRESS ARE AWARE OF VAST IMPORTANCE OF DEFENDING WESTERN EUROPE; IF, HOWEVER, THEIR APPRECIATION OF THAT IMPORTANCE IS NOT SHARED BY OUR ALLIES, WE SHALL BE FORCED INTO A REEVALUATION OF OUR COMMITMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, PEACE THAT HAS ENDURED IN

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EUROPE SINCE 1945 -- BASED IN PART ON NATO AND IN PART ON UNITED STATES NUCLEAR UMBRELLA -- HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS A GIVEN, PARTICULARLY BY THE GENERATION WHICH HAS EXPERIENCED NOTHING BUT PEACE. COLLECTIVELY, WE MUST PERSUADE OUR PUBLICS THAT SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE HINGE ON AN EAST-WEST BALANCE OF POWER; OTHERWISE, LITTLE HOPE CAN BE HELD FOR SURVIVAL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. IF BALANCE IS MAINTAINED AND STRENGTH OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN NATIONS IS PRESERVED AND ENHANCED, FACT WILL BE DETERRED FROM ATTACKING NATO'S CENTER REGION OR ITS FLANKS.

6. CONCERNING STANDARDIZATION, RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION, SECDEF NOTED THAT, WHILE SOME GOOD RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED, 25 YEARS HAVE BEEN SPENT PAYING LIP SERVICE TO A CONCEPT TOWARD WHICH ONLY FEW CONCRETE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. ON BALANCE, NATO NATIONS DEMAND A COLLECTIVE LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE WHICH THEY ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO ACHIEVE INDIVIDUALLY. PROGRESS TO DATE HAS BEEN SO SLOW THAT ONE CANNOT RELY ON RATIONALIZATION TO ACHIEVE THOSE ECONOMIES REQUIRED TO REDRESS THE BALANCE.

7. IN COURSE OF DIALOGUE, SECDEF COMMENTED ON FACTS THAT AN ENHANCED NATO DEFENSE POSTURE IS IMPEDED BY POST-WORLD WAR II CONSTRAINTS AND BY IDEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS. EUROPEANS ARE SUSPICIOUS OF FRG AND FEAR A GREATER PROPORTIONAL GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE DEFENSE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, FEARFUL NATIONS ARE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE LESS, THUS INSURING THE GERMAN PREPONDERANCE THEY FEAR. SPAIN COULD ADD CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH TO ALLIANCE, BUT, ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, NATIONS LEAST WILLING TO DEVOTE RESOURCES TO COMMON DEFENSE ARE THOSE MOST

OPPOSED TO SPAIN'S PARTICIPATION.

8. AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN ASSURED SECDEF THAT SECRETARY'S VIEWS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE HOPED THAT SECDEF'S REEVALUATION OF AMENDED DEFENSE PLANS, AS SET FORTH IN MOD VREDELING'S LETTER, WOULD ALTER HIS OPINION OF ORIGINAL PLANS. SECDEF SAID THAT VREDELING'S LETTER WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY AND THAT HE SHARED VAN LYNDEN'S HOPES THAT HIS OPINION OF DUTCH PLANS WOULD BE ALTERED FAVORABLY. SECDEF COMMENTED ON EXTREMELY HIGH ESTEEM IN WHICH VREDELING IS HELD, AND ASKED VAN LYNDEN THAT HIS

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HARVEST PERSONAL REGARDS BE CONVEYED TO MOD.

9. TEXT OF VREDELING LETTER BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. SISCO

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