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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON D. C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

#15 (16)

SUBJECT: MBFR: US Reduction Alternatives (U)

DOD needs to develop the best way for taking the reduction of 29,000 US ground force personnel called for in the US MBFR position. I would like the DOD MBFR Task Force, working with the JCS and DPAE, to prepare for my review by September 15 a report containing a set of reduction alternatives together with evaluation and recommendations. As a first step, the JCS should submit reduction alternatives and preliminary evaluations to the Task Force by September 7 with preliminary outlines sent to the Task Force by August 18.

In developing the DOD position on the structure of reductions, the emphasis should be on retaining combat capability to support the first 30 days of buildup and the forces remaining in Europe should retain a capability to defend against a surprise attack. In addition, the withdrawn and remaining forces should be configured to allow for a rapid reinforcement in the event of a crisis.

With these criteria in mind, force reduction packages should be constructed using several separate approaches, to include the following:

- Taking reductions primarily in service support and headquarters type personnel above the division level, making up the remainder of the reduction from major combat unit cuts.
- "Thinning out" existing units, both by individuals or by battalion or smaller units which would become "round-out" units.
- Reducing entire combat units, full divisions or brigades, with a support slice.

The reduction alternatives should also include proposals for Allied performance of various support functions that would facilitate US reductions in this area rather than in immediate combat capability.

(U) The DOD MBFR Task Force will be responsible for providing additional guidance regarding the tasks called for here.

Copy Furnished:  
Secretary of the Army

J R Sullivan

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