



16

~~SECRET~~
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Folder "NAO 320.2
(Aug-Sep) 1973, 'Box 75',
330-78-0001 #16
JCSM-399-73
10 September 1973

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: MAR 22 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: MBFR: US Reduction Alternatives (U)

1. Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 22 August 1973, subject as above, which addressed the requirement to develop the best way for the United States to reduce the 29,000 ground force personnel called for in the US MBFR position.
2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed the recommendations of USCINCEUR on a range of concepts for structuring US force reductions and have developed a recommended MBFR reduction package which can be used to provide a perspective on the US MBFR position. The Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that force reduction packages should be developed systematically, within the context of overall negotiations, and with careful consideration of assigned mission requirements. In this regard, the views of field commanders require full and careful consideration.
3. Early development of a US force reduction package would permit a clearer perception of the related tasks and programs that must accompany MBFR preparations. At the same time, however, there are several reasons for retaining US flexibility in reduction packages for as long as possible. First, military security dictates that a detailed force list be finalized only after Soviet positions have surfaced. Second, current and continuing reorganizations and force improvements will have a major bearing on the preferences for reduction candidates. Further, actions now in the conceptual stage in the NATO Action Program could ultimately have a significant effect on the US reduction package. Finally, the early disclosure of reduction specifics could invite Soviet attempts to negotiate details of the allied force structure. For these reasons, the Joint Chiefs of Staff conclude that the selection of a final force reduction package would be premature at this time, and the flexibility to modify the US approach throughout MBFR negotiations should be a recognized part of any proposal surfaced now.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WIIS 50.s.c. 5552
Date: 22 MAR 2019 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 18-M-2004

~~SECRET~~

~~Classified by Director, Inf~~
~~SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION~~
~~SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652~~
~~EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~
~~AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS~~
~~DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1994~~

Copy: 25
41

18-M-2004
3904
R1