



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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SECRET

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SUBJECT: Nuclear Elements In MBFR (S)

(S) Attached for your signature is a letter to Secretary Kissinger in which we propose that the US advance an MBFR nuclear signal, backed by [redacted] into NATO so as to give it to the East in Vienna before the December recess.

(S) Because of Kissinger's previous concern about the ceilings that are associated with nuclear elements, the letter contains a reassurance that we can construct appropriate constraints through non-circumvention provisions, and that this issue should not hold back play of the nuclear elements.

(S) The Joint Staff would prefer going to the Allies asking them to begin consideration of all of Option III [redacted] 27 PERSHING, and 48 F-4, although at this time we ask only that NATO move forward with a nuclear signal associated with [redacted] I think we retain more flexibility and have more chance of success in the Alliance if we tell NATO only that we would not rule out the possibility of following later with other Option III elements (27 PERSHING and 48 F-4), depending on the situation.

(S) While copies of this memorandum have been provided to their offices, Len Sullivan and Don Cotter were not available to comment on this approach. I believe they would support the view that we should not commit ourselves at this point on all of Option III.

(S) Resor is in Brussels today, reporting to the NAC, on behalf of the Allied Ad Hoc Group, that there is no apparent prospect of real progress on the basis of the present Western reduction proposals. The AHG is suggesting that until we add further elements to the Allied proposals we will not be in a position to evaluate fully all the factors bearing on chances for progress. The alternative is to continue elaborating our current position. I believe that this presentation by Resor sets the stage for the course we have recommended.

(U) Recommend that you draw on the attached letter in raising this issue with Secretary Kissinger and/or that you send the letter to him.

Section 6.2(a)
OSD

Office of the Secretary of Defense § U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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1205 [Signature]
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