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 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 INSPECTOR GENERAL
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315
 APR 16 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: General Accounting Office (GAO) Draft Report,
 "NATO's Long-Term Defense Program: Allied Disagreements
 Prevented Its Success (U)," dated April 3, 1984 (GAO
 Code No. 453703), OSD Case No. 6487 - INFORMATION
 MEMORANDUM

The General Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed the progress of the Long-Term Defense Program (LTDP) established by NATO heads of state in May 1978. The LTDP was intended to supplement the NATO regular defense planning system and called for improving NATO defense capabilities in nine functional areas. The GAO found that the LTDP was designed to last into the 1990s, but was prematurely terminated as a discrete program after only four years. The GAO indicated that the termination resulted from procedural difficulties and insufficient allied support.

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The unique planning and followup procedures established to ensure LTDP implementation centered on allocating national responsibility for particular improvement measures and assigning program monitors for each of the functional areas. The GAO stated that these procedures created difficulties for national defense planners and LTDP program monitors. The result, GAO reported, was incorporation of the LTDP measures back into the regular NATO force planning process. The GAO concluded that, while LTDP achieved little progress in the nine functional force improvement areas, the program contributed positively to NATO defense planning by placing greater emphasis on functional planning for NATO as a whole.

The GAO also stated that many U.S. and allied officials attribute the program's demise to allied economic difficulties and budgetary constraints. The GAO concluded, however, that allied disagreements over assessment of the Warsaw Pact threat and strategy to meet it, appropriate national spending priorities, burdensharing and the U.S.-European balance of trade in defense equipment represented more fundamental barriers to the success of the LTDP and programs like it.

(U) The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy) is developing the DoD comments.

(11/1/84)

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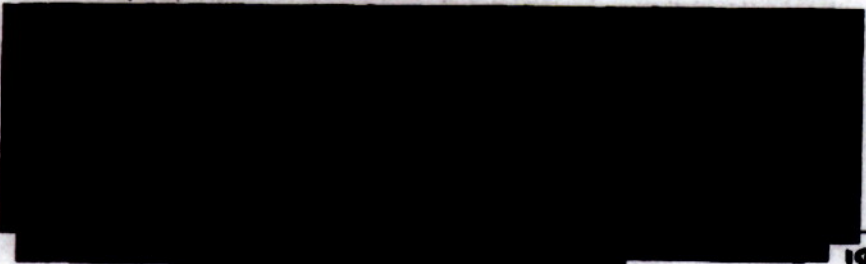
Joseph H. Sherick
 Joseph H. Sherick
 Inspector General

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Prepared by Mr. JOHN HILMS, X24820



18-M-1041

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