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26.3.1975

GEORG LERER
MINISTERPRÄSIDENT DER LÄNDER

Courtesy Translation

Dear James,

Many thanks for your letter of February 18, 1975, concerning the deployment of the two new US brigades to Germany. My staff has prepared a study of the two alternatives you mentioned with regard to the accommodation of the brigade to be deployed to the Federal Republic of Germany in Fiscal Year 76. As the study shows, only the following possibilities can be realized:

In the NORTHAG area, one half of the brigade could be accommodated at the BERGEN-HOHNE training area; this would require extensive additional infrastructure and the approval by NATO. The only way of accommodating the other half would be in barracks which might possibly be made available by UK or Belgian forces.

Billeting difficulties are also the reason which prohibits the envisaged redeployment of a German brigade to the NORTHAG area. All barracks used by the Federal Armed Forces are so heavily occupied that it is impossible to collocate any units or agencies.

In the CENTAG area, no German accommodations are available at all. In negotiations with CINCUSAREUR's authorized representative my delegation was assured that an investigation would be made whether US accommodations would become available in that area, perhaps through space vacated by US service support elements which are to be disbanded or by squeezing together the other elements.

The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Secretary of Defense of
the United States of America
Washington 25, D.C.

-2-

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I would suggest that we defer the final decision pending the outcome of CINCUSAREUR's study, but that we ascertain in the meantime whether the UK or Belgian forces are able to make accommodations available for approximately half a brigade. To this end, a joint move in the DPC would appear to be advisable where the question might be presented under the aspect of rationalizing the use of accommodations.

The increase of the existing conventional combat power by the two new US brigades, a measure which is highly welcomed by us, serves at the same time to improve NATO's deterrent posture. I believe, therefore, that we are well justified in inviting these two allies to participate in seeking a solution to the accommodation problem.

Yours,

sgd. Georg

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS *5056502*
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