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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JUL 31 2019

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with MOD Woerner, Cesme, Turkey, 2 April 1984,
1805 hours

ATTENDEES

US SIDE

Secretary Weinberger
General Vessey
Ambassador Abshire
ASD Perle
DASD Lauder
MGen Powell
Mr. Darel Johnson

GERMAN SIDE

MOD Woerner
General Altenburg, COPS
Ambassador Hans-Georg Wieck,
NATO PermRep
Col. Dr. Klaus Reinhardt
Dr. Ruehle

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MOD Woerner began by noting that he had spent four days in Turkey prior to this meeting and reported that the Turks were furious and excited over the Senate Foreign Relations Committee amendment to cut Turkish aid. He had spent forty minutes with President Evren and Evren had used twenty minutes of the time on this subject. The thrust of Evren's remarks was that if the American Administration really wished to increase Turkish aid, they could. Woerner said that he explained to Evren the complexity of the American system, but was unsuccessful in convincing him. The SecDef replied that we believe we can turn that action around.

The Secretary then turned to NATO infrastructure, stating that the Alliance requires a major increase. The President will write a letter to the Chancellor, but it would be useful to know when the German decision on support of infrastructure will be made. Woerner replied that theoretically it will be included in the budget for 1985, which is reviewed in the autumn of this year. However, whether it is actually reviewed or not depends on the amount of increase agreed to. The IAU 2.08 billion increase is already in the budget. If we agree to increase to IAU 2.3 billion, there is no requirement for additional funds until 1988. Woerner has discussed this issue with the Finance Minister who admitted that he had not examined the issue in detail. However, Woerner was not certain if he could agree in May to go even as high as IAU 2.3 billion since the current governmental position is to remain at 2. Woerner then explained the financial requirements

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for modernization of the Bundeswehr during the late 80's and 90's. The large projected personnel shortage will require additional money to allow the Bundeswehr to compete with private industry. He added he would be happy if the pressure used on him were to be focused instead on other members of the government. The Secretary responded that the IAU 3.8 billion covers our 6 Division reinforcement commitment. Without the money, reinforcement at that scale is hard to do. He asked Woerner if it would help to argue the economic advantage of increased infrastructure funding. Woerner replied that economics was one of his arguments, but that the Finance Minister was confronted with serious problems. He had domestic demands as well as demands from the Turks and the Portuguese, and INF, MRP, and host nation support from the United States, all of which added up to large amounts of money. He said that there probably is a chance for an increase in the mid-term, but in the short term only a small amount would be possible. He recommended the increase be achieved in two steps, a small one in April and May, and then a mid-term review. The Secretary wondered if there were a device in the German budget where funds could be committed now, and outlays would come later, so that NATO commanders could begin to plan. Woerner said such an idea was impossible since the MOD must return to the Bundestag for approval of an increase. Since in the past several years outlays had doubled, the budget committee was on record that it would approve no more than IAU 2.0 billion.

However, Woerner added that notwithstanding the difficulties in convincing the budget committee, if the Finance Minister were convinced an increase was necessary, the problems would disappear. The Secretary asked if a Presidential letter would help, and Woerner agreed that it would. Ambassador Wieck asked about priorities, and whether infrastructure of MRP was more important. Woerner added that he had to set priorities, and both infrastructure and MRP compete with military requirements. He stated that there are two steps to the approval process, first it must be made clear at the political level the issues were important, and then priorities must be established among them. The Secretary responded that MRP is an important priority for us as well. He then asked about Woerner's idea for timing of a mid-term review. When informed that the Germans visualized a mid-term review in 1986, the Secretary stated that then the NATO Military Authorities could not plan effectively to use the funds. Moreover, the longer we postpone dealing with the problem, the more difficult it becomes. Woerner ended the discussion on infrastructure, stating that at present he can go no further. Although a better report may be forthcoming in May, he felt that a major increase in 1986 would stand a better chance of catching the German economy on an upturn.

Woerner then turned to the Roland/Patriot, and explained that he needed a quick agreement on the technical details to present to his Parliament. The Secretary asked if an agreement by May would

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be satisfactory, and Woerner assured him that it would. The Secretary then said we have no interest in delay, and if the U.S. internal problem is slowing the process, then we can correct the problem easily. He also mentioned that Woerner should be aware of our difficulties in dealing with the Belgians, and we planned a bilateral with them tomorrow to raise that issue.

The Secretary then asked Woerner about German decisions on the conversion of Pershing I. Woerner replied that the decision was in reality in two parts, first within the Ministry of Defense it was necessary to find money; secondly, the problem was political since it could reopen the nuclear question. He went on to say that there is a certain connection between Pershing modernization and offensive counter-air. General Altenburg picked up on the point, saying that if the German Government were to spend a lot of money, it was mandatory to get the best value from that money. The Germans were looking at extending the life of the P-1 for a year or two. That could allow time for technology to produce a solution to the problem

and he wanted to be certain that the money supported his priorities. He then turned to INF in The Netherlands, and asked about the Secretary's talks in The Hague. The Secretary replied that the Dutch have no Parliamentary majority and were looking at options which could avoid a clear-cut decision. The Prime Minister felt that if a decision were required now, the government would fall, and the next government would be worse. Minister Woerner was concerned about the potential for the Dutch difficulties to reopen the German debates. He said that we should avoid any suggestion that the Alliance would consider missiles on submarines, or a reduction in the number of missiles to be deployed in The Netherlands. It is important that Defense Ministers weigh in on the issue. He pointed out that polls indicated that 70 to 75% of the German public were opposed to INF deployment before the actual date of deployment. Now the issue is dead. The Secretary ended by stating that he felt Lubbers believed that if he had forced the decision a year ago, the issue would have been much easier.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 3 Jul 2019 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552
Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: X
Reason: 3.3(b)(5)(6)
MDR: 18 -M- 1061

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
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