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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY POLICY

His Excellency
Joseph M.A.H. Luns
Secretary General
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Brussels, Belgium

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +S U.S.C 6552
Date: 19 May 2019 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: X
Reason: 3.3(b)(5)(6)
MDR: 18 -M- 1039

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

As Chairman of the NPG High Level Group (HLG), I have the privilege of forwarding to you our report which completes the mandate directed by NPG Ministers: to review NATO's nuclear forces with a view to determining the future size and composition of the stockpile of these forces, taking into account the full set of politico-military requirements.

The focus of the HLG work was to determine the essential requirements for those NATO nuclear forces with range capabilities less than longer-range land-based intermediate-range nuclear forces (LRINF) to carry out the NATO strategy as defined in MC 14/3. The investigation of the nature and scope of adjustments to the nuclear armory as a whole and the implications of LRINF deployments for future nuclear roles were inherent aspects of our work and are consistent with the mandate given to the Group when it was formed by NPG Ministers in 1977.

The High Level Group's deliberations centered on the nuclear force requirements necessary to carry out NATO's strategy, and the heart of that strategy, the concept of deterrence. The Group recognizes that to deter aggression, NATO must possess credible conventional and nuclear forces in which there are no gaps that a potential aggressor might be tempted to exploit.

Ministers will note that the High level Group recommends significant reductions in the number of nuclear weapons to be maintained in the Alliance stockpile in Europe. The Group has also identified areas in which improvements in the Alliance nuclear posture would help maintain the future deterrent capabilities of our nuclear forces. These measures, designed to improve the survivability, responsiveness and effectiveness of Alliance forces,

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address areas such as storage and security, readiness and mobility, and replacement of obsolescent weapons and delivery systems.

The final High Level Group Report to Ministers is attached. Ministers are invited to endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

Sincerely,

Richard Perle
Richard Perle

Attachment:
. as stated

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