

#

~~SECRET~~

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

EC DEF  
AS SEEN

In reply refer to: I-23950/83

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JUL 01 2019

AUG 1 1983

8 9 JUL 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

75  
1 AUG 1983

SUBJECT: Chinese Protest on Arms Sales (U)

(S) Your marginal note on the State Department cable concerning the Chinese demarche on Taiwan arms sales (Attachment 1) directed us to develop answers to the Chinese arguments that some of the systems sold exceed previous qualitative levels. The USG position has consistently been that we will not consult the PRC on future arms sales (although we do give them advance notification before publicly announcing), and we will not engage in discussions or debates about individual systems after they are approved for sale. We have limited our response to Chinese protests to simply reiterating that the approved sales fall within the quantitative and qualitative guidelines set by the August 17 Joint Communique. You should follow this approach during your discussions in China; we will provide talking points for your trip book. In any event, we feel that Ambassador Zhang was merely stating his government's position for the record, and did not really expect a reply. It is our opinion that the PRC felt a need to officially protest only after the Weisskopf article in the Post. If the Chinese raise this issue with you, it will probably be for the same reason, and the same response will suffice.

Agreed -  
my notes  
said  
"We ha  
...etc  
ner  
"

(S) The interagency working group on Taiwan arms sales recommended approval of the systems cited by the Chinese (AIM-7F SPARROW missiles, STANDARD ship-to-air missiles) because they do not possess the range or altitude of the NIKE-HERCULES and I-HAWK missiles already in Taiwan's inventory. The SPARROW missiles are not provided as a replacement for the SIDEWINDER air-to-air missiles which Taiwan currently has; they are to be employed in a surface-to-air mode, for which their capabilities are not considered a qualitative improvement. The STANDARDS not only represent a commitment we made to Taiwan before the August 17 communique (approved in principle in August 1981), but also lack the range and altitude of Taiwan's present surface-to-air missiles.

Attachment  
a/s

EXEMPT PER EO 13526/13526  
Date 29 Feb 2009 Sec 3.3 (b) (6)  
OSD F.S. Other Agency Equity: TBD  
Review/Declassify: 31 Dec 2033

*R. L. L. Armitage*

RICHARD L. ARMITAGE  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(International Security Affairs)

CLASSIFIED BY: DIR, EADR  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

OK

~~SECRET~~

330-85-0023, bx 6, China (9-4-83)

19-M-0849

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE MILITARY ASSISTANT

8/2/83

NOTE FOR RICH ARMITAGE

THRU: USD(P)

Please see SecDef's note on the attached which reads--

"Agreed. My note said 'We had' . . . , etc.' not 'Instead.'"

*VL, CP*

Colin L. Powell  
Major General, USA  
Senior Military Assistant  
to the Secretary of Defense

Sec Def Cont Nr.

X26543

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 01 JUL 2019 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 19-M-0849

EXEMPT PER EO 13526 Extended  
Date 28 Feb 2008 Sec 3.3 (b) 6  
OSD ES 112 Other Agency Equity: TBD  
Review Declassify On: 31 Dec 2083

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: JUL 01 2019