#4-96

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

7 Feb 76

Memo For Col White, OASD(ISA)

Looks reasonable to me.

I would suggest you coordinate the plan of action with LA; have Mr. Jordan send the memo to the Sec Def informing him of the actions being taken or planned; or, if Sec Def approval is required, have Mr. Jordan send a memo requesting Sec Def concurrence.

Also, a Holcomb to Scowcroft memo might be useful.

Col Brooks

091.3

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

6 FEB 76

Memo For COL BROOKS GHB

Per our conversation, this is what I had in mind as a response to your note on reduction / elimination of MARG's. Would appreciate your views.

Col White
55459/55460

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OSD WHITE ASSISTANCE
ISA

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Reduction and/or Elimination of Military Assistance Advisory Groups (MAAGs) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this memorandum is to review proposed Congressional security assistance legislation which would require reduction and subsequent elimination of MAAGs and to identify action DoD should take in response to Congressional initiatives.

The following factors were considered in developing a position:

- MAAGs are currently assigned to 44 foreign countries and security assistance augmentation personnel are attached to the Defense Attache Office in eight additional countries. FY 1976 personnel authorizations for these activities are: US military - 1455; US civilian - 167; local civilian - 434; and total - 2056. (For complete distribution see Encl 1)

- Defense has been sensitive to changing requirements in the MAAGs and to Congressional demands for reduction of personnel assigned to MAAGs. As a result, strength authorizations for US personnel has declined from 7192 in 1960 to the current level of 1622.

- In S.2662, the Senate is considering security assistance legislation that would limit the number of Military Assistance Advisory Groups to 34 and the number of MAAG personnel (US military and US civilian) to 1400 by 30 June 1976. If enacted,

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this would require disestablishment of 10 MAAGs and the immediate reassignment of 222 DoD personnel and their families. Further, the legislation would require the disestablishment of all MAAGs by 30 September 1977 except as might be specifically authorized by Congress.

- The House International Relations Committee continues to "mark-up" proposed security assistance legislation. Included are provisions for disestablishment of all MAAGs by 30 September 1977 except as authorized by Congress.

- Provisions of both the Senate and House bills would permit the Secretary of Defense to assign a maximum of three military personnel to the staffs of U.S. Embassies in countries where MAAGs were inactivated.

It is the view of Defense that the advisory groups are key elements in the system through which military assistance and Foreign Military Sales requirements are identified and the requisite grant aid programs and sales arrangements are developed and implemented in a manner insuring maximum contribution to U.S. security objectives. They assure effective utilization of military materiel and training and assist in the ultimate disposition of materiel provided as grant aid. In addition, the groups provide DoD representation in the host country and furnish the U.S. Chiefs of Mission advice on military matters.

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Disestablishment of the MAAGs would damage the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. It would greatly reduce U.S. influence at decision making levels of the host government; would preclude efficient control and management of security assistance programs; and, would make difficult, if not impossible, the assessment of threat, ability to absorb and end item use of U.S. supplied equipment. Termination of the MAAGs would jeopardize the success of major programs now under way in some countries which are not self-sufficient. Removal could be viewed as an indication that the U.S. no longer values the security friendship and cooperation of the foreign country.

With regard to pending legislation, it is recommended that DoD take the following approach:

- Despite our efforts, we have been unable to convince the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to delete the provisions requiring the elimination of ten MAAGs and reduction of 222 US personnel during the remaining months of FY 1976. Therefore, Defense must proceed with plans to accomplish the reductions.

- DoD, in concert with Secretary Kissinger's commitment, will not seek to alter the Senate provisions on the floor of the Senate; however, this does not preclude DoD from attempting to modify the legislation through House action.

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- DoD should seek to modify the legislation that would eliminate MAAGs by 30 September 1977. In order to provide stability and continuity of effort, Congressional authorization permitting establishment of a MAAG should extend for a minimum period of from two to three years rather than requiring approval each year. The requirement for annual authorization would introduce uncertainty as to the MAAG's continued existence which would result in disruption and hardship if continuance is not approved.

- If provisions for recognizing multiple year authorization for MAAGs are not included in legislation now under consideration, DoD must again endeavor to modify the legislation in FY 77.

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Personnel Authorizations
MAAGs, Missions, and Equivalent Organizations
(FY 1976)

	Mil	US Civ	Local Civ
East Asia-Pacific			
Australia*	3	-	-
China (Taiwan)	43	5	12
Indonesia	55	6	22
Japan	7	5	5
Korea	155	44	50
Malaysia*	1	-	-
Philippines	39	9	6
Singapore	1	-	-
Thailand	166	7	8
Near East-South Asia			
India	4	1	5
Iran	191	18	39
Jordan*	10	2	5
Kuwait	9	-	-
Morocco	19	2	6
Pakistan	9	-	7
Saudi Arabia	148	2	10
Tunisia	9	1	3
Latin America			
Argentina	27	1	9
Bolivia	29	2	8
Brazil	31	2	14
Chile	15	-	6
Colombia	22	1	6
Costa Rica	2	-	1
Dominican Republic	8	-	2
Ecuador	8	1	3
El Salvador	10	-	3

	Mil	US Civ	Local Civ
Europe			
Austria	2	-	-
Bellux	7	1	5
Denmark	7	1	6
France	6	1	6
Germany	22	5	9
Greece	29	7	16
Italy	11	2	6
Netherlands	8	1	5
Norway	6	1	5
Portugal	11	3	7
Spain	29	8	19
Turkey	113	21	58
United Kingdom*	2	1	-
Africa			
Ethiopia	46	4	28
Liberia	9	-	3
Nigeria	1	1	1
Zaire	10	-	3
Guatemala	15	-	4
Honduras	11	-	3
Mexico*	1	-	-
Nicaragua	15	-	3
Panama	9	1	1
Paraguay	14	-	3
Peru	7	-	4
Uruguay	13	-	5
Venezuela	30	-	4
Grand Total	1,455	167	434

* Defense Attache Office augmentation for security assistance.