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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name DUR, PHILIP: FILES

Withdrawer

DLB 3/21/2005

File Folder NATO (12/22/1982-01/06/1983)

FOIA

F00-089

Box Number 9

TERRY TERRIFF

4

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
5805	MEMO	ALLAN MYER TO RICHARD BOVERIE, RE; KOMER STUDY ON NATO CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE R 4/5/2012 F2000-089/1	3	12/22/1982	B1
5806	LETTER	CASPAR WEINBERGER TO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, RE: NATO	2	11/24/1982	B1
5807	PAPER	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - RE: TAKING OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	7	ND	B1
5808	PAPER	EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	17	ND	B1
5809	PAPER	APPENDIX I TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES - WARSAW PACT THREAT AND VULNERABILITIES	8	ND	B1
5810	PAPER	APPENDIX II TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES - ILLUSTRATIVE LISTS	12	ND	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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5805

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

December 22, 1982

NATO

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD T. BOVERIE

FROM: ALLAN A. MYER oem

SUBJECT: Komer Study on NATO Conventional Defense

The Komer Study is a rather puzzling piece of work. In the first place, Mr. Komer aptly summarizes the first 60 pages of his 69 page study with the observation (at page 61) that "None of the measures already discussed will be easy to accomplish. Few are really new, so the sheer fact that they have not gotten farther to date is testimony to the difficulties involved." In my view, the few new measures suggested are so far from political reality, that what remains is an interesting compendium of observations concerning the inherent dilemma faced by democratic states trying to maintain a semblance of military strength. The study certainly is not a prescription to get NATO well. Consider the following:

o The basic premise of the study is that a nuclear stalemate compels greater reliance on a more costly conventional defense that must be done cheaply. After overlooking the non sequitur, the thesis is that we must thicken up the thin linear forward defense. The key proposal is to acquire a far greater French role in the conventional forward defense. (And this after the clear French political decision to weight defense expenditures on their nuclear force; not to mention the direction of French military decisions since December 1965.) Other measures recommended include a potpourri of on-going initiatives, reinvigoration of pre-1980 initiatives, and a few new proposals.

o New proposals to thicken up the forward defense: establish stockpiles in France, commitment of rapid reinforcement ground forces by Spain, and the funding of an elaborate barrier system through NATO infrastructure funding. These proposals appear to be divorced from political reality and the political capital that would have to be expended just to get studies underway in these areas would inevitably cut into positive movement in other defense and non-defense Administration initiatives. (But why is Airland Battle omitted?... a clear thickening-up approach which thickens from the FEBA forward.)

o As with any "good" study, the study calls for more studies: a parametric study on HNS potential, a parametric study of combined training potentials, and even the suggestion of another "wiseman" exercise to look at the whole topic of conventional defense. My view is that a proliferation of studies at this point in time would have a debilitating effect on Alliance efforts to get things done. (Although it would keep study money flowing.)

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NLRR F00-089/1 #5805
BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/12

o The study calls for a modification of MC 14/3 with the objective of getting specific on conventional defense; i.e., NATO will conduct a conventional defense for 30 days. Setting aside the decoupling implications of this concept (at least as what would be perceived by the Europeans), I am still stuck with the lack of sensitivity in regards to timing (INF deployment, arms control initiatives, state of European political constituencies).

o The study contains a series of clear inconsistencies. For example: (1) Proposes an official ceiling on U.S. troops (which is in FY 83 Appropriations Bill) with a concomitant push to get NATO agreement to provide the bulk of further forces for the conventional defense of Europe (we are pushing just that). But then, Mr. Komer calls for substantial prepositioning of Tacair and a Marine MAB for Denmark. (2) The study proclaims that the focus is more conventional defense on the cheap. Once you get beyond the tired phrases of more rational burdensharing, better armaments collaboration, better RSI, combined logistics, and specialization/ala the Warsaw Pact style division of labor that has not even worked in the Pact), the remaining initiatives may be quite cheap for the U.S., but certainly not for the Europeans (reequip and rearm french forces, integrate and thicken AD belts, create elaborate barrier systems, 45 new brigades for the FRG). In any event, the political cost would be enormous. (3) Adopt a more ruthless prioritization. This is something that has much merit but the study has a score of "first priorities." (4) The study observes correctly that the Europeans will do less if the U.S. does less. But as mentioned before, it then calls for a ceiling on U.S. forces while recommending a Spanish rapid reinforcement corps, many new FRG brigades, a new French Army, and more far air defense.

o The study touches on most, if not all of the schemes, programs, and problems of the past. It is an excellent survey of potential avenues of approach for a more credible conventional defense ... with several glaring omissions. First, Mr. Komer makes no mention of the current initiative to deal with emerging technologies though he does discuss the need to exploit them. Second, he does not examine the on-going NATO Southwest Asia Impact Study and the attendant implications for European compensation. Finally, I am really puzzled by the lack of sensitivity to political reality and prevailing economic conditions, particularly in country specific terms.

Though my analysis of the Komer Study is quite negative, I would be remiss if the pearls of wisdom were not noted. The study does set forth a very useful base of principles that should be kept clearly in mind as we go forward in NATO defense matters:

o There is no alternative to a coalition approach to NATO defense needs.

o The nuclear balance compels greater reliance on the conventional defense.

- o There must be U.S. leadership in NATO or there will be no leadership in NATO.

- o We must adopt more ruthless prioritization if we are to ever do first things first.

- o We must exploit new technology.

- o We must work with Congress and take advantage of Congressional initiatives.

- o The status of TNF holdings begs for a major, hardheaded study of TNF realities (particularly for short-range systems).

- o The United States must first get its "ducks in a row" if we are to have any success in pushing the Europeans forward.

- o Do not count out the potential force multipliers inherent in RSI, combined logistics, armament collaboration, and specialization. Keep pushing and looking for ways to take advantage of cooperative programs.

- o The potential of France's contribution to NATO needs attention and the Bonn-Paris axis is the way to go to milk more out of France.

- o The U.S. must not step back from its commitments.

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OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

dlb 3/15/04

Jan 6, 1983

TO: AL MYER
PHIL DUR
BOB HELM
RAY POLLOCK
BOB LINHARD
RICH LEVINE

Attached is a copy of the "Emerging Technologies" paper which SecDef gave to NATO.

I am delighted that we got this, although it is disappointing that the White House did not receive it until many weeks after it was given to the Allies.

Dick
Dick Boverie

Atch
SecDef ltr to The Honorable Luns

~~UNCLASSIFIED WITH
SECRET ATTACHMENT~~

When attachment is withdrawn, this document becomes UNCLASSIFIED.

~~SECRET~~

Bill Hoehn

1/5

Dick,

Per our recent conversation,

I enclose a copy of the
"Emerging Technologies..." paper
that Cap submitted at the
1 Dec DPC.

Be glad to discuss it
further with you, at your
convenience.

Regards

Bill

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5807	PAPER EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - RE: TAKING OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	7	ND	B1

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5808	PAPER EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	17	ND	B1

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5809 PAPER

8

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B1

APPENDIX I TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES -
WARSAW PACT THREAT AND VULNERABILITIES

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