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Briefing

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Congressional Research Service

October 17, 1978

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

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Deputy Legislative Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency

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In line with our conversation on this subject, I am submitting this request for a briefing for myself and my colleague, Robert G. Bell, on methodological issues related to conventional arms transfers by foreign nations--specifically the Soviet Union and the major Western European suppliers. As I indicated to you over the telephone, Mr. Bell and I are currently detailed to support the study currently being undertaken by Mr. Hans Binnendijk, Professional Staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Consequently, we have an official need to know the information we are seeking from the CIA through this briefing. Mr. Bell and I both have TOP SECRET and NATO COSMIC clearances, which can be verified by contacting our security officer, Mr. George Stringer, at 426-5619. Mr. Bell's social security

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The specific subject area on which we would like to have the briefing is the matter of methodology used in computing the value of foreign arms transfers by other nations--specifically those noted above, and the CIA's evaluations of the accuracy of the data generated by other government agencies regarding both the value of foreign arms transfers and the totals regarding actual deliveries of such weapons themselves. In sum, as we attempt to assess the accuracy and validity of the assumptions and findings of all agencies which deal with such data, we would very much like to have the benefit of the CIA's perspectives on this subject, and matters related to it.

We would hope that you could set up such a briefing with knowledgable analysts of the agency at the earliest feasible time, as we will be assembling a draft report by the end of the week of October 23, if not earlier. If you have any further questions regarding this request please contact me at 426-5057.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Grimmett

Dr. Richard F. Grimmett
Analyst in National Defense

MORI/CDF

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