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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

25 MAR 1981

In Reply Refer to:
I-21046/81

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefings for Dutch MOD de Geus (U)

(S) On 24 March, Dutch MOD de Geus returned to the Pentagon to receive an Air Force briefing on GLCM and a DIA briefing on the Soviet threat to SWA. He also held a press conference. Major topics discussed were:

GLCM - De Geus questioned if expensive shelters for GLCM were needed since mobility was the key to their survivability. He was briefed on the Air Force cost effectiveness study on the value of the shelters during the transition from no war to a conventional attack. De Geus noted the problem in NATO with increased infrastructure costs and questioned if a GAO report that GLCM IOCs might slip was accurate. He was told that we were still planning to meet the original IOC and were rearranging the testing schedule for software, not hardware as the GAO report stated. De Geus questioned what the deployment schedule would look like should the Dutch take a positive decision in December 1981 and would simultaneity of deployments be possible. He was told 3 years would be required from a decision and that we would have to spread out the schedule somewhat. De Geus and his staff also asked a number of specific technical questions on penetrability of GLCM versus BM, its method of navigation, self-destruct capability, arming safeguards, range-minimum and maximum, and the manning levels. Post-meeting discussions with members of de Geus's party revealed some continuing concern with basing all flights at one base (in terms of presenting a tempting target collection) and with the maneuverability of the GLCM TEL on wet Dutch soils.

Soviet Threat to SWA - The MOD was appreciative of the briefing but had no questions. His staff asked about ability to monitor Poland photographically and the nature of the logistic indicators presaging a major force movement into SWA.

Other Issues - On the margins we raised with de Geus the need to proceed with a major increase in infrastructure funding for the current program and funding Slice 32 at the level recommended by the MNC. We also noted our need for preliminary planning information on possible parts to receive ammunition in the event of a conflict. We stressed we were not asking for a commitment but only a range of possibilities to enable initial bilateral planning to proceed. De Geus responded he would give these matters his consideration.

OSD Review completed

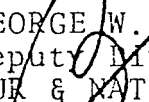
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Press Conference - De Geus stressed the continuation of the Dutch tie to NATO, Dutch interest in specialized tasks, the modernization of air and naval forces, and the cost effectiveness of conscript personnel. On nuclear topics, he noted the GON concern about general proliferation, their desire to seek conventional alternatives to nuclear weapons and their search for arms control solutions. Dutch interest in shifting away from war fighting systems to deterrence emphasizing ones is why the Dutch reject the neutron weapon. He welcomed the Administration's willingness to listen to Allies and noted that he has already begun fixing up equipment the Dutch already have and furnishing more ammunition and other readiness items, which President Reagan has indicated the US also will do.


GEORGE W. BADER
Deputy Director
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