

~~SECRET~~



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

C  
/

March 30, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Significant Actions, Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense (March 24-30, 1979)

Meeting with President Sadat: On Wednesday I met with President Sadat, Minister of Defense Kamal Ali, and Ambassador Ghorbal. No new ground was covered but I believe the meeting was useful in reinforcing our intention to take as many actions as we can in the way of hardware delivery and training starts this calendar year. President Sadat was pleased, and in an interesting comment, offered reassurance that Egypt did not plan on any military adventures.

Base Realignment Announcement: The Department's base realignment decisions were publicly announced yesterday as scheduled. As expected, those states that will lose big were the most vocal in their criticism and displeasure with the decisions. We followed our usual procedure of briefing affected members of Congress the previous day. Particularly upset were: Senator Muskie over the reductions at Loring Air Force Base (we deferred the second step to a time three or four years hence, but Senator Muskie would have been satisfied with nothing less, in effect, than an abandonment of the reduction); the New Jersey delegation over the reductions at Fort Dix; and the Ohio delegation over several reductions throughout the State.

020005

Trip to the Middle East: Assistant Defense Secretary Dave McGiffert is scheduled to visit Jordan on April 7-8 for a meeting of the US-Jordan Joint Military Commission (JMC); I have discussed with Cy and Zbig the general line Dave should take with the Jordanians in this post-Treaty period. McGiffert will also stop in Israel and Egypt to review the agreements and security assistance arrangements made over the last two weeks, and discuss (as I indicated to them during my February trip that we would) joint planning and US presence.

Support to North Yemen and Saudi Arabia: All equipment to meet the current crisis in Yemen has been delivered or is enroute, with the exception of 155mm Howitzers, DRAGONS, and air munitions for Yemeni F-5s. The Howitzers and DRAGON deliveries have been delayed until approximately mid-April by a lack of accommodations in Sana for support personnel;

3 Apr 2 79

13-M-4592

Classified by \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify on 30 Mar 05

~~SECRET~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. Q-1788 Doc 7

~~SECRET~~

2

and the F-5 munitions are awaiting a Saudi decision on quantities to be airlifted. At Saudi request, two SR-71 flights were flown over the North/South Yemen border area; the Saudis were extremely pleased with the briefing and photos from these flights.

Supplemental Budget Request: Congressional action on our FY 1979 Supplemental Budget request continues to move at a disturbingly slow pace. The Senate Armed Services Committee recognizes that our arms delivery commitments in connection with the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty have an effect on F-16 deliveries. I will appear at a hearing next Tuesday on this and the other parts of the amendment to the Supplemental, connected with Iranian cancellations. The same Committee has adopted MX amendments to get a May 12 report on the MX basing mode decision, and to influence missile design and basing modes. The House Armed Services Committee finally finished its subcommittee markup of the bill yesterday, and intends to commence full Committee markup next week. The subcommittee made cuts in procurement and research and development totaling over \$600 million; \$460 million of which was planned for the 55 F-16 aircraft that had originally been programmed for Iran. The MX missile (though not the basing) was fully funded, but there is restrictive language favoring a multiple protective structure basing mode.

New Members Caucus: I have been asked by the Sophomore Democrats, chaired by Representative Gore (D Tenn.), to address the Congressional New Members Caucus next Tuesday. I plan to cover SALT, the defense program, and the Mid-East peace agreement. Freshman and junior members have been invited; there may be a good turnout.

*Howard Bauer*

~~SECRET~~