

DOS REVIEWED 18-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION:

THE WHITE HOUSE

REFER TO DOS

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1973

Henry --

Here is the cable Schlesinger wants to send to Leber. It looks okay to me with the addition of subparagraph 2 (c) proposed by Aaron.

If you don't like it, we can just send the acknowledging cable at Tab B.

Brent

- Okay with paragraph 2(c) added *plus other changes*
- Okay as is (Tab A)
- Send Tab B acknowledgment

Send to Dan Aaron

OSD REVIEWED 15-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION:

MEMORANDUM


NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

June 18, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR ~~GENERAL SCOWCROFT~~ ^{HAK}

FROM:

David Aaron 

SUBJECT:

Schlesinger Reply to Request From
Def Min Leber on U. S. Defense Policy

Minister Leber goes before the Bundestag tomorrow and expects questions on Schlesinger's DPC speech and on Getler article in Washington Post, June 7 (which reported that U. S. studies show NATO has "more than enough" conventional defense to stop Soviet attack). Leber asked Amb Hillenbrand if U. S. could provide him with clarification of relationship between Getler article and Schlesinger speech as well as any other information that would be helpful in answering Bundestag's questions.

Attached is response Schlesinger would like to send in Defense channels (Tab A). I see no real problem with it.

However, I think it misses one important point (drawn from inter-agency cable which was under preparation) which could be inserted in para 2 as (c):

"Allied support for a strong conventional option is important in light of the strategic balance between east and west and to enable us to justify maintenance of a strong conventional U. S. posture in Europe. Some of our strongest Congressional criticism comes from those who claim NATO is only capable and willing to support a nuclear tripwire and that the current level of U. S. forces in Europe is far above what is required for a tripwire."

If Schlesinger memo cleared, Robert Murray (tel 528-6970) should be notified with whatever changes we propose. Alternatively, we could send short cable attached at Tab B. In this case, Mr. Romine (363-9389) should be notified.

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TO AMEMB, BONN

INFO:

SUBJ: SAME

REF: Bonn 8622

1. You should tell Minister Leber that Getler article in Washington Post is an unfortunate leak of incomplete analysis (see DepTel) and it does not rpt not presage any change in American commitment to the alliance. The American views are well-known and long standing, and the President's support for the Alliance and Alliance forces have been made abundantly and repeatedly clear.

2. Secretary-designate Schlesinger, as a close reading of his DFC statement will hopefully make clear, stressed that (a) NATO had the essential ingredients for a ~~satisfactory~~ ^{SUBSTANTIAL} conventional defense vis-a-vis the Warsaw Pact provided NATO conventional forces were strengthened and improved in the directions the Alliance was now proceeding; and (b) that this conventional capability was more, not less, important in this period of approximate nuclear parity. Secretary Schlesinger intends to review this matter closely with the Allies, and intends to invite Minister Leber to Washington soon where this topic will be an important part of the agenda.

3. You should also tell Leber, however, that Senate concern about the erosion of the dollar, and about the inadequacy of Alliance sharing of the burden, is intense, and that it is absolutely essential that the Allies be seen to be doing more to appreciate this point. This

issue was raised immediately at the beginning of the confirmation hearings of Secretary Schlesinger before the Senate Armed Services Committee, where Mr. Schlesinger, by his strong support of the present U.S. force levels in Europe, was accused of "rigidity."

4. You should also tell Leber that initial wire service reports of Schlesinger testimony before Senate today are misleading, and caution that comments on the Schlesinger testimony must await a review of the text. (We will telegraph text of relevant testimony on 19 June).

(Handwritten note: Attached behind Tab-B)

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DRAFT CABLE

REF: Bonn 8622

SUBJECT: Leber Request Re Schlesinger Speech Getler Article

1. We will be following up on Schlesinger DPC speech and Getler article.
2. In meantime, you can tell Leber that Schlesinger speech is not based on studies cited in Getler article in Washington Post June 7.

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SCHLESINGER (TOPS 16)

WASHINGTON (AP)-DEFENSE SECRETARY DESIGNATE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES MAY BEGIN BRINGING HOME TROOPS FROM EUROPE IN A YEAR OR TWO.

BUT HE CAUTIONED THERE CAN BE NO CUTBACKS IN AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION UNTIL THE SOVIET UNION AGREES TO REDUCE ITS FORCES CURRENTLY ON EUROPEAN SOIL.

SCHLESINGER TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE HIS NOMINATION AS DEFENSE CHIEF WITHOUT DELAY.

GENERALLY, SCHLESINGER DEFENDED CURRENT LEVELS OF DEFENSE SPENDING AND WARNED THE UNITED STATES MUST BE PREPARED TO ANSWER WITH STRENGTH POTENTIAL "ADVERTURESOMENESS" BY THE SOVIETS.

OF THE 300,000 AMERICAN TROOPS STATIONED IN EUROPE, SCHLESINGER SAID, "THEY ARE NOT JUST THERE TO SHOW THE FLAG."

SCHLESINGER SAID HE'LL STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING SOME TROOPS HOME AND LEAVING THEIR EQUIPMENT BEHIND TO PERMIT A QUICK AND EASY RETURN IF A WARSAW PACT ATTACK SEEMS LIKELY.

ASKED ABOUT WHETHER HE THINKS THE VOLUNTEER ARMY WILL WORK, SCHLESINGER SAID, "I CANNOT GUARANTEE IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL."

A DANGER OF THE VOLUNTEER ARMY, SCHLESINGER SAID, IS THAT PERSONNEL COSTS IN THE PENTAGON BUDGET MAY SHARPLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT COULD DROP THE UNITED STATES BEHIND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

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