

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

DOS REVIEWED 16 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

INFORMATION  
March 15, 1975SECRET

## MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JAN M. LODAL *JML*

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Unified Command Plan

I want to alert you that in the near future (probably within two weeks) Secretary Schlesinger will be sending to the President JCS recommendations for revisions to the Unified Command Plan.

The Situation

The impetus for the revisions is DOD's attempt to cut costs by reducing major headquarters, headquarters personnel, and the number of senior officers. The revisions are a subject of hot controversy within the Pentagon. The various elements of the DOD have not reached a true agreement. When Schlesinger forwards the JCS recommendations, he also intends to include his own personal comments, as well as those of the individual Services.

The Issues in Brief

Although the issues are still evolving and are being held closely within the DOD, it appears that there are three major areas of disagreement. In brief, these are:

-- U.S. Readiness Command (REDCOM). The Army and the Air Force favor retention. The Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Chairman of the JCS favor disestablishment.

-- U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). The Army and the Air Force favor disestablishment of PACOM and establishment of two regionally oriented Unified Commands. The Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Chairman of the JCS favor retention of PACOM.

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-- U.S. Atlantic Command (LANTCOM). The Army and the Air Force are proposing that LANTCOM become a Specified Command. The Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Chairman of the JCS want to retain it as a Unified Command.

The President eventually will need to review the issues and recommendations, and provide guidance. We will attempt to keep abreast of the situation in anticipation of providing necessary analysis. You also may wish to keep an ear to the ground regarding the issues, pending formal submission of the package by Schlesinger.

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