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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

Mar 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAJOR GENERAL JOHN WICKHAM

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*

SUBJECT: Response to Nunn Amendment on  
US Theater Nuclear Policies in  
Europe

I have reviewed the draft report to Congress in response to the Nunn Amendment and concur in the basic content and thrust of the paper. It is recommended that the changes indicated on the enclosed paper be made, for the reasons indicated.

These changes do not alter the meaning or the thrust of the paper nor do they detract from its responsiveness.

*28-100-2/23/75*

OSD REVIEWED 22-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

DOS REVIEWED 21 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN WICKHAM

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT:

Response to Nunn Amendment on  
US Theater Nuclear Policies in  
Europe

I have reviewed the draft report to Congress in response to the Nunn Amendment and found the basic content and thrust of the paper ~~to be about right~~. However, the changes indicated on the enclosed paper ~~must~~ be made, for the reasons indicated.

These changes do not alter the meaning or the thrust of the paper nor do they detract from its responsiveness.

Procedurally, the handling of this paper by the OSD staff has been poor. A document for review and coordination was only delivered to the NSC staff at the eleven hour, and the OSD staff had made no prior effort whatever to clear this important national security matter with the White House.

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Changes to be made to the document:

THE THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE IN EUROPE  
A REPORT TO THE US CONGRESS, Dated March 10, 1975

1. Page 15. Delete final paragraph.

This paragraph introduces a concept for possible use of theater nuclear weapons which raises issues of basic employment policy and which has not been thoroughly studied within the US government or NATO.

2. Page 31. Delete the word "clear" in the second line of the second paragraph and substitute "military". Delete the last sentence of the second paragraph and substitute, "Decisions on such adjustments must, however, be made in the context of the ongoing MBFR negotiations and must be based on political as well as military considerations."

The President decides on changes in nuclear weapons deployment. A statement by the Secretary of Defense to the US Congress that there is "clear" potential for reducing warheads in Europe might limit the President's options. Moreover, this paragraph blurs the distinction between a military potential for reducing warheads and the political factors which would also bear on such a decision.

3. Pages 31 and 32. In the paragraph beginning on page 31 and ending on page 32, place a period after "merits" in the first sentence and delete the phrase "not because it will result in a better bargain for the WP". Delete the final sentence of the same paragraph.

The President has decided for the present that the number of US nuclear weapons now in Central Europe will be reduced only in the context of MBFR. This paragraph could be interpreted to mean that reductions of US nuclear forces would never be made for purposes of MBFR but only for other political and military reasons, and that reductions associated with "streamlining" the stockpile might be made independent of MBFR. This is not in accord with current US policy.