

04-F-0625

~~SECRET~~

(9)

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 21 2013

26 JAN 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Release of I-Chaparral (MIM-72C) to Saudi Arabia

In your memorandum of 24 October 1983, you presented an explicit analysis of factors favoring and mitigating the release of the I-Chaparral (MIM-72C), concluding with the recommendation that this weapon system not be released to the Government of Saudi Arabia. I approved that recommendation and the Saudi Government was so informed.

In the past three months, however, a number of developments have occurred that make it advisable to review once more the Saudi request to purchase the I-Chaparral (MIM-72C). The deteriorating political and military situation in the Persian Gulf has motivated the Saudi Government to become considerably more forthcoming to our requests for increased joint contingency planning. The recent joint consultations between Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar and your staff as well as the discussions in Riyadh between Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan and our team (LtGen Thomson and MajGen Tixier) indicate a much greater Saudi responsiveness to our contingency needs, which include among other requirements access to the Dhahran facilities.

Prince Sultan, in his meeting with LtGen Thomson and MajGen Tixier on 21 January 1984, specifically requested that the U.S. Government reconsider the decision not to sell the MIM-72C Chaparral and permit them to purchase "at least one battery to use for defense of Dhahran." While recognizing the merits of the arguments listed in your 24 October 1983 memorandum, it would appear that the evolving political climate should allow us to be more forthcoming at this time. The fact that there is a three and a half year lead time for this system after a formal Saudi decision to procure it may also mitigate our security concerns.

I would like a Joint Chiefs of Staff position by 7 February 1984.

Office of the Secretary of Defense, 545C552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS and
Date: 22 AUG 2013 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDB: 13-M-3117

13-M-3117