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JOINT DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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BRIEFING PAPER

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-AWACS

47

VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NATO

Talking Points/Issues

5. NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: DEC 23 2014

Suggested Talking Points

- US supports NATO Airborne Early Warning Program.
- System will provide Alliance important new military capability.
- US wants to move on program.
- Understand specific numbers and cost sharing being worked by a NATO group.

Note for Information:

-- Our basic aim is to keep underway some momentum for AWACS in NATO, keeping open the option of reconsidering the exact number of AWACS NATO needs, the relationship of US AWACS to NATO, and the role of the various NATO partners in the financing, depending on the negotiating situation.

-- To say nothing would connote lack of US support and probably kill the program.

-- To say too much might limit flexibility of US review of program.

Background:

-- NATO military authorities concluded current air defense system seriously deficient - can't see low flying aircraft. ←

-- They agree an Airborne Early Warning System with advanced radar and communications gear - a derivative of US E-3A best fix.

-- Financial negotiations proving difficult, but we think workable.

-- Continued UK support depends on early procurement decision. UK under pressure to purchase British system -- NIMROD -- now in development but lesser performance.

-- FRG proceeds slowly and questions financial arrangements and how AWACS works with existing air defense ground systems.

-- France and Italy appear unwilling to participate - some smaller nations not yet committed.

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15-M-0241

CHAIRMAN

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,

1/22/77

Sac Brown

Per conversation -

Here is the AWAC

Paper for the

Vice President.

[Handwritten signature]

Page determined to be Unclassified
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WWS
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: DEC 23 2014

LDX-ed
to Dave
Aaron at
1530 on
msh
(SAS)

George -
1/22 This looks
fine to me. I'll
transmit it from
both of us, with
your permission.
cc: Shandi HB

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WWS
Date: 23 DEC 2014 Authority: EO 13526
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