

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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17 AUG 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Reductions in United States Naval Forces Committed to NATO

In a memorandum for the President on 19 February 1970, we asked the President's agreement to consult with NATO authorities on proposed reductions affecting:

- Three (3) destroyers in Category A (available within 48 hours)
- Twelve (12) destroyers in Category B (48 hours to 30 days)
- One (1) submarine in Category A
- One (1) destroyer escort in Category B
- Nine (9) maritime patrol aircraft (one squadron) in Category A

Subsequent to Presidential approval on 14 March 1970, Ambassador Ellsworth informed NATO on 8 April that the United States was ready to begin consultation on these changes and on 16 April discussions were initiated with SACLANT.

We consider that consultation on our proposed changes ended on 27 July when Permanent Representatives agreed without comment to a Military Committee recommendation to note remedial measures sought by SACLANT to offset the changes and to urge countries to meet agreed force goals. SACLANT did express an assessment that his anti-submarine warfare capability has reached a level at which his ability to control the Atlantic sea lanes of communication comes into serious question in the face of the large and improving Soviet submarine force.

Since we encountered no political problems in our proposed SACLANT earmarked reductions, I am instructing the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Navy to accomplish the actions associated with these changes.

State has been informed of the outcome of this matter.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

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