

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 26, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEFact Sheet

The President is today requesting an amendment to the FY '77 Budget that would provide an additional \$260.7 million in missile procurement funds for the Minuteman III ICBM; \$56.3 million for a higher yield MK-12A reentry vehicle; and \$5.4 million in associated military construction.

When the FY '77 Budget was being prepared a decision was made not to request funds in the FY '77 Budget for continued Minuteman III production. However, in Secretary Rumsfeld's Annual Report, he stated that, depending on the pace of the SALT II negotiations and our continuing assessment of Soviet ICBM programs, it might be necessary to request supplemental funding to continue production.

The Administration continued to review this program and has now concluded that, with the benefit of the additional time to note the pace of the strategic arms limitations negotiations, it is appropriate to request the funds necessary to give us the option to continue Minuteman III production in FY '77.

If Congress approves the Administration's \$40 million reprogramming request for FY '76, the Minuteman III line will continue until about September. Prior to September some parts of the line would begin to complete their work and re-opening them would be both expensive and time consuming.

We would expect to review this issue again in late summer. Prudence demands that we ask Congress now for approval of funding that will provide the necessary options to continue full Minuteman III production.

In addition, the Administration has continued to review the MK-12A program and has concluded that because of the decision to maintain the option to continue Minuteman III production, it is desirable to submit a FY '77 Budget Amendment to provide procurement funds for the MK-12A higher yield reentry vehicle in FY '77 instead of waiting until FY '78.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

The Speaker of the
House of Representatives

Sir:

I ask the Congress to consider, for the Department of Defense--
Military, fiscal year 1976 supplemental appropriations and amendments
to the 1977 appropriations requested in the 1977 budget. New budget
authority requests total \$221,000,000 for fiscal year 1976 and
\$322,400,000 for fiscal year 1977.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter
from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur
with his comments and observations.

Respectfully,

Harold R. Ford

Enclosure



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

APR 22 1976

The President

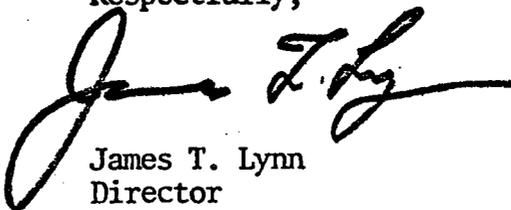
The White House

Sir:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration, for the Department of Defense--Military, proposed supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 1976 and amendments to 1977 appropriations requested in the 1977 budget. New budget authority requests total \$221,000,000 for fiscal year 1976 and \$322,400,000 for fiscal year 1977. The details of these requests are contained in the enclosure to this letter.

I have carefully reviewed the proposals for appropriations contained in this document and am satisfied that these requests are necessary at this time. I recommend, therefore, that these proposals be transmitted to the Congress.

Respectfully,



James T. Lynn
Director

Enclosure

(Proposed 1976 Supplementals:)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE--MILITARY

PROCUREMENT

Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy

For an additional amount for "Shipbuilding and conversion, Navy", \$213,000,000, for the conversion of USS Belknap.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy

For an additional amount for "Research, development, test and evaluation, Navy", \$8,000,000.

These requests will provide funds for the conversion of the USS Belknap, which was badly damaged in a collision in the Mediterranean last fall. This proposal was not included in the fiscal year 1977 budget because cost estimates were not available at that time.

(Proposed 1977 Amendments:)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE--MILITARY

Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1977 request pending	1977 proposed amendment	1977 revised request
PROCUREMENT				
259	Missile procurement, Air Force	\$1,599,400,000	\$317,000,000	\$1,916,400,000
CONSTRUCTION				
271	Military construction, Air Force	\$802,300,000	\$5,400,000	\$807,700,000

The proposed amendments will provide for continued production of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile at a rate of five per month, initial production of the Mark 12A re-entry vehicle, and for necessary storage facilities.