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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES T. LYNN
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: CONDOR MISSILE

The President reviewed your memorandum of November 28 and made the following notation:

"Discussed -- OMB has my decision".

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1975

MR PRESIDENT:

*Discussed.
OMB has my
decision.*

Jim Lynn will be discussing the attached memorandum at your Budget Meeting at 2 P.M. today. A copy has been given to Brent Scowcroft but his comments have not been received at this writing. He will be attending this portion of the Budget Meeting.

Jim Connor



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

NOV 28 1975

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JAMES F. LYNN
SUBJECT: CONDOR Missile

Defense has appealed your decision to terminate the CONDOR missile program. We are raising this appeal to your attention now, rather than during the December budget appeal session, because the House-Senate conferees on the 1976 Appropriation will consider this issue while you are in China.

In the attached memorandum, Defense appeals cancellation of the CONDOR and argues that the CONDOR provides a new dimension in tactical air capability by providing a stand-off missile with a range of 60 miles. Defense believes that engineering solutions to reliability problems are in hand and will be demonstrated shortly.

I recommend you reaffirm your decision to cancel the CONDOR missile because:

- Existing weapons provide the same probability of destroying the target at only one-fifth the cost of CONDOR.
- The CONDOR, even if it works properly, is only a marginal improvement in capability rather than a "new dimension." A "new dimension" would be the capability to launch outside the electronics countermeasures environment (200 miles from target). Within the 200 mile circle, the difference between CONDOR with a 60 mile stand-off capability and existing systems with a lesser stand-off capability of approximately 20 miles is shorter aircraft exposure time.
- Defense concedes that the system has reliability problems, the solutions to which have not yet been demonstrated, although they "are in hand." We would point out that the CONDOR program has been attempting to demonstrate "solutions" for at least three years without success.

DECISION

_____ Approve Defense appeal.
_____ Reconfirm decision to cancel CONDOR.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

26 NOV 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Among the recent tentative decisions which you made in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget recommendations on the FY 1977 DOD Budget, one of our immediate concerns is the proposed termination of the Navy's CONDOR missile program. This decision concerns me because I believe this weapon system has reached the final stage of evaluation and test prior to full scale release to production.

The CONDOR is an air-to-ground missile which permits very precise application of force from long stand-off ranges (60 miles). It thus provides a new dimension in tactical air capability. The development program has required about 8 years and \$300 million of investment to attain the current capability.

The Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council (DSARC) recently explored thoroughly the reliability problems and determined that engineering solutions are in hand and will be demonstrated shortly. Government long lead liability will be held to \$10 million pending successful completion of this demonstration.

CONDOR, I believe is a viable and most necessary addition to the Navy's carrier forces. Enhanced aircraft survivability and a high degree of tactical flexibility are available to the fleet with CONDOR. I urge you to recognize the significance of this weapon in maintaining the effectiveness of the Navy tactical air forces in the next decade. I request therefore that program approval of the CONDOR missile be granted for FY 1976 and FY 1977.

H. P. Clement

Deputy

Date: November 28, 1975

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Brent Scowcroft

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, November 28

Time: NOON

SUBJECT:

James Lynn's memo of November 28, 1975
CONDOR MISSILE

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

The attached memorandum will be discussed in the Budget Meeting today at 2 P.M. --- Therefore your comments are urgently requested.

Scowcroft commented verbally in meeting - attach to handwriting

*up 1:30
11/28*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
For the President