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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
 James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
 Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
 to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, November 25, 1974
 3:20 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
 The White House

SUBJECTS: Vladivostok SALT Accord: Base Closings

Schlesinger: The Soviets have met their match. They are night people and they usually wear Americans out. You can keep up with them.

President: I think we had a good serious meeting and I think the results are such that we can . . .

Schlesinger: Your accomplishments on this one are phenomenal.

President: I am glad to hear it. If we are criticized I think it will be by the left. The figures are higher than we would like, but it puts a rigid ceiling and makes them modify their program and gives us flexibility.

For launchers it is a limit of 2,400; for MIRV'd launchers it is 1,320. There will be no new sites. Missiles on bombers, if they have a range of over 600 kilometers, are counted as launchers.

That is it.

Schlesinger: Is there freedom to mix?

President: Yes.

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SECRET/SENSITIVE/XGDS



SECRET - XGDS (C)
 CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

Schlesinger: The agreement gives an arms balance and no one on the Hill can attack you for an unequal system. The Soviets dropped all their unacceptable demands -- and they dropped them because you have taken a tough position.

President: I am glad to hear that. The 2,200 - 2,400 would have given us many problems. Dropping FBS surprised me. It is very straight-forward. It meets Jackson's language. Where will Scoop go?

Schlesinger: He will have to shift from the arms balance issue to the stability issue. You have put yourself in a good position for 1976. You have not signed an unequal treaty. Your critics can be answered by saying we are prepared to reduce. As soon as the Soviets are ready, we are ready to reduce.

President: The Soviets' launcher plans were well above the limit, and on MIRV's as well. The 600-kilometer limit doesn't worry you?

Schlesinger: No, as long as SRAM is protected.

President: I think we should look into ACBM, if only because it worries the Soviets. We also discussed limiting their MIRV'd heavy SS-18 and our air missiles over 3,000 kilometers in range.

Brezhnev gave us hell for the covers on the silos.

Schlesinger: That is just a cover for the camouflaging they are doing. The best argument for the point you mentioned is they have the capacity to go far above the limitations imposed.

President: This puts them in a bind -- they may give up the bombers.

Schlesinger: We can relax on our strategic programs and put the money somewhere else.

President: How do we get to 2,400?

Schlesinger: We would hold nominally some B-52s and Polaris submarines. But we don't have to go to 2,400. The key is not signing an unequal treaty. No one will use the weapons.



We are pleased as punch.

The Soviets will say many things they will never do in negotiations. If they want a treaty they will recede; if they don't, nothing we do will move them.

President: How did the base closings go?

Schlesinger: Very well. We should always do it while you are out of the country. [See DOD News Release of November 22, 1974, Tab A]

President: How about Hugh Scott?

Schlesinger: We are trying to get into the Philadelphia papers that Scott kept Frankford Arsenal ten years longer than anyone else could have. The biggest problem is Mitchell in Rome, New York. We cut it by about 90%. There is some kick by Frey about Patrick. We are moving a few hundred from Florida to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

President: I notice Illinois ends up with more.

Schlesinger: That may be a result of your prescription about Louisiana.

We are closing the Air Force Communications facility at Richards-Gebaur [AFB, Kansas City] and moving it to Scott Air Force Base [Illinois]. It saves 1,000 men. All in all, we are getting a favorable press.

President: I went to Camp Casey and saw the Second Infantry. Emerson is one helluva gung-ho guy.

Schlesinger: I know that the force is stabilized and the morale is much better.

President: I was impressed. I think the force is in good shape in morale. We will keep him there as long as possible. [There was a discussion of Stillwell and Hollingsworth.]

Schlesinger: We have held up the announcement of PACAF. Also for the overseas package. That package is heavy in Thailand and Taiwan.



President: General Hill met me. I didn't raise his job with him.

Schlesinger: Yes, that and SOUTHCOM. That would presumably be wrapped into a Panama package. Most of the non-military governments don't like the colonial aspects of the SOUTHCOM. We will need all the help we can get on the Hill and this will help.

President: Yes, and we will announce the decisions tomorrow. I notice you closed a base in Houston.

Schlesinger: Goodfellow [sic, should be Ellington Air Force Base]. It's been open just to service NASA.

[They discuss pipes and fur coats.]

Schlesinger: On SALT violations, we shouldn't say, "there is no evidence of violations," only that there are ambiguities.

President: Is that what your R&D man said in your speech?

Schlesinger: I am not familiar with that. I will check into that.

President: I think we must get together with Colby on the collateral constraints. I gather you were surprised too.

Schlesinger: It is not so important with this simple agreement.

President: I don't think you ought to join the leadership meeting. I will handle it. I may have to mention the numbers.

Schlesinger: We need to move soon on Thai reductions.

President: Not this week?

Schlesinger: No, but expeditiously.

Gene Rostow is giving you strong support on national security.

President: He is good.

Schlesinger: He is organizing things.



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NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

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PLEASE NOTE DATE

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER
ANNOUNCES 111 ACTIONS AFFECTING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger today announced that he has approved 111 base realignment actions recommended by the Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Air Force, and Director, Defense Supply Agency. These actions are part of the continuing Defense effort to divert resources from support and overhead activities to combat capability and to realign Defense activities in line with today's lower force levels.

The realignment actions approved will eliminate headquarters and other positions involving approximately 11,500 military and 11,600 civilian billets. The military personnel concerned will be assigned to combat and combat support activities. Once these actions are completed by 1977, it is estimated that DoD support costs will be reduced by over \$3.3 billion in the subsequent decade, which will make it possible to provide that much more combat capability and effectiveness over the period.

A review of our overseas support structure is nearing completion. Decisions on these actions will not be announced pending completion of a Defense/State review and consultations with the host countries involved.

Under the Department of Defense Program for Stability of Civilian Employment, every effort will be made to assist displaced civilian employees in obtaining other acceptable employment. Transportation and moving expenses will be paid for career employees who will be relocated to other Defense activities. Eligible career employees desiring placement assistance will be registered in the Department of Defense Priority Placement Program and the Civil Service Commission's Displaced Employees Program for referral and consideration in other vacancies within the Department of Defense and by other federal departments and agencies.

Close liaison will also be maintained by the Department of Defense civilian personnel offices with the Department of Labor, state employment offices and private industry to help employees desiring placement assistance or retraining for positions in the private sector. Most career employees who do not elect to take other federal positions will be eligible for severance pay up to one year, based upon age and length of federal service, or for immediate retirement under one of the voluntary or involuntary options.

(MORE)



The President's Economic Adjustment Committee will bring the resources of the federal government to bear on alleviating problems of personnel and communities resulting from these realignments. The Secretary of Defense chairs this inter-agency committee made up of 17 federal departments and agencies.

The Committee works with state and local governments and the private sector to create new private sector jobs to replace the Defense jobs that will be eliminated.

The following is a summary of the principal actions to be taken by the two Military Departments and the Defense Supply Agency in the United States and Puerto Rico.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will be closed.

As part of the depot system realignment, the following actions will be taken: Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, Illinois, will transfer its weapons storage and ammunition mission to Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, California, and will be reduced to a depot activity. Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot, Lexington, Kentucky, will transfer its communications and electronics maintenance mission to Tobyhanna Army Depot, Scranton, Pennsylvania, and to Sacramento Army Depot, Sacramento, California, and will be reduced to a depot activity. Pueblo Army Depot, Pueblo, Colorado, will transfer its missile maintenance mission, except Pershing missile maintenance, to Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and will be reduced to a depot activity. Sharpe Army Depot, Lathrop, California, will transfer its aircraft, construction equipment, and general equipment maintenance missions to Corpus Christi Army Depot, San Antonio, Texas; New Cumberland Army Depot, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Tooele Army Depot, Tooele, Utah, and will become a secondary item (repair parts) Supply Distribution Point.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

Three Tactical Air Division Headquarters at Little Rock Air Force Base, Little Rock, Arkansas; Pope Air Force Base, Springlake, North Carolina; and Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, New Mexico, will be inactivated.

Strategic Air Command KC-135 Air Refueling Squadrons at Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, Washington; Pease Air Force Base, Newington, New Hampshire, and Rickenbacker Air Force Base, Columbus, Ohio, will be used to modernize Air National Guard squadrons at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington; Rickenbacker Air Force Base, Ohio; Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, and Bangor International Airport, Maine, subject to final consent of the Governors of the States concerned.

(MORE)

The 17th Bombardment Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Fairborn, Ohio, will be inactivated and the B-52 and KC-135 aircraft will be redistributed to five locations.

The Air Force will eliminate 400 aging reciprocating engine aircraft used for administrative and support flying and jet powered support aircraft will be consolidated at centralized locations under the Military Airlift Command.

The Air Force Systems Command Laboratories will be consolidated and will include the disestablishment of the Special Weapons Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the Rome Air Development Center, Griffiss Air Force Base, Rome, New York; the reorientation of the Cambridge Research Laboratories, L. G. Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, Massachusetts, to include command, control, and communications effort; establishment of Wright Technology Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Fairborn, Ohio, and the addition of an Environmental Research activity at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Headquarters, Air Force Communications Service, Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Kansas City, Missouri, will be disestablished and its management functions will be assigned to Headquarters, Military Airlift Command, Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, Illinois.

Twelve Strategic Air Command satellite alert activities at twelve locations will be inactivated.

Air National Guard units at 11 locations will be modernized subject to final consent of the Governors of the States concerned and Air Force Reserve units at two locations will be modernized.

Seven Aerospace Defense Command radar activities will be inactivated.

Ellington Air Force Base, Houston, Texas, will be closed to Air Force activities upon relocation of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard activities.

DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY

The four Defense Subsistence Region Headquarters located in New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Alameda, California, will be disestablished and certain functions will be transferred to the Defense Personnel Support Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Defense Contract Administration Services Region Headquarters located at Detroit, Michigan, and San Francisco, California, will be disestablished and their functions consolidated at Cleveland, Ohio, and Los Angeles, California, respectively. The Defense Contract Administration Services District Headquarters at Camden, New Jersey, will be disestablished and its functions will be consolidated at the Defense Contract Administration Services District at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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