

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JUN 8 1976

The Honorable Georg Leber  
Minister of Defense  
Ministry of Defense  
5300 Bonn 1  
Postfach 161  
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Minister Leber:

Collectively we must assure that NATO communications are interoperable for military effectiveness, and secure against the potential of Warsaw Pact exploitation. In 1973 the U.S. offered its newest developments in communications security technology to NATO and NATO nations. This offer included the VINSON equipment and information on the TENLEY family of secure communication devices. Your communications experts have expressed interest in the U.S. proposals.

National economic considerations have appeared, but I believe these can be resolved through production sharing agreements which we are willing to undertake. At our June DPC meeting, I intend to expand the earlier U.S. proposal by offering to permit European Allies to produce this equipment in Europe with no charge for R&D.

The success of our proposal requires support in EUROCOM. Failure to obtain agreement there and within the Alliance on a common approach to communications security would impair the chances for communications interoperability for several years.

If you can personally support EUROCOM review of the U.S. cryptographic offer, I believe this will provide an excellent opportunity to advance both communications security and interoperability throughout the various NATO communications systems.

Sincerely,

