

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

25 JAN 1976

General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Commander in Chief
United States European Command
APO New York 09128

Dear Al,

This responds to your letter of 24 October 1975 which concluded that infrastructure funding priorities should not be changed to provide greater reimbursement to the U.S., and which recommended a direct U.S. approach to the Military Committee to obtain NATO eligibility for all "assigned" aircraft.

I am concerned that the inadequate scope of the current infrastructure program is impeding progress toward those badly needed increases in military capability noted in the SHAPE Flexibility Study, including additional shelters. I would be receptive to your views and recommendations concerning the best timing and forum for a major USG initiative to expand the infrastructure program from 400 MIL IAU to 600 MIL IAU.

I remain convinced of the value of shelters for the protection of our deploying aircraft. The continuation of the U.S. prefinancing program will receive close scrutiny by the Congress in FY 1977 and later Budget reviews. An expansion of NATO funding criteria to include all assigned aircraft, even without infrastructure funding actually being available now, could help in obtaining Congressional support. In this regard, I support the inclusion of the revised definitions of forces contained in MCM-37-75 in the appropriate NATO eligibility documents. I feel that it would be unnecessarily cumbersome to submit new U.S. eligibility proposals through the Military Committee each time additional aircraft are made available to NATO.

Your support in gaining NATO acceptance for the expanded eligibility would be greatly appreciated, and I look forward to receiving your views on expanding the infrastructure program.

Sincerely,

Donald Rumsfeld

