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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

15 SEP 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Visit of North Atlantic Council

Secretary General Luns and the Permanent Representatives to the North Atlantic Council are scheduled to meet with you at the White House on Wednesday, September 15 at 11:00 o'clock. I understand Secretary Kissinger is furnishing you with background materials on some political subjects.

Here are a few Defense-related points appropriate for you to make with the Perm Reps:

1. During their visit to the Pentagon later in the day, the Perm Reps will receive briefings covering Soviet research and development efforts and trends, and Soviet military capabilities and programs. These are the same briefings we've delivered to Congressional groups. As you know, they present some sobering facts with which all members of the Alliance need to be familiar. The implications are that the Allies must continually improve national contributions to NATO defense and cooperate in standardization and harmonization of forces and equipment, if we are to counter Soviet growth.
2. You could communicate our concern regarding improved Warsaw Pact military capabilities. We have done our best to explain the threat and the reasons for arresting adverse trends to the American people and to our Congress. They have responded positively. The Congress has now approved a substantial real increase in US resources going into defense, even though the full request may not be met. Each member nation must make a similar effort if the Alliance is to remain strong.
3. When you spoke to the Council at the Heads of Government meeting in Brussels in May of 1975, you emphasized the need to standardize our weapons and to rationalize our collective defense. Since that time, some good work has been done within the Alliance. Selection of the F-16 and the US-FRG decision to harmonize their future main battle tanks are important steps in the right direction. A common NATO Airborne Early Warning System is another step toward improved deterrence and defense.

SIGNER'S COPY

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4. Moving from a series of largely independent national military forces to an interdependent and mutually supportive Alliance defense effort is not expected to be easy, and it will not happen quickly. We must make certain that the present impetus in that direction continues, and that we have the patience and will to carry through.

J. R. [Signature]

