

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 15, 1987

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 284U.S. MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN SUPPORT OF NATO (U)

It has been a continuing objective of this Administration to maintain the strength and vitality of all of our Alliance relationships. Several events require that we undertake a comprehensive review of our current force plans and programs for U.S. military capabilities in support of the NATO Alliance:

- Progress continues toward a U.S.-Soviet agreement on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF), which, if concluded, will be implemented over the next 3-5 years. This agreement would eliminate one class of forward-deployed nuclear weapons. Given current conventional force imbalances and the future potential threat to NATO, prudent planning suggests the need for adjustments in U.S. and Allied contributions, both nuclear and conventional, to assure the continued viability of the NATO military strategy of flexible response.
- Continued progress in the NATO High Level Task Force on Arms Control and the Conventional Stability Mandate Talks indicate the possibility of follow-on negotiations concerning conventional forces. Until such talks become a reality and NATO-Warsaw Pact conventional force issues are addressed effectively through negotiations, continuing programmatic responses will be required of both the U.S. and our Allies to address the existing imbalance.
- While the military implications of an INF Treaty have been carefully considered in the formulation of our negotiating positions, the FY88-89 defense program, now pending before Congress, was developed before the outlines of an eventual INF Treaty had become clear. In addition, the FY90-94 planning process being executed under NSDD-219 (i.e., the Net Assessment of military capabilities and the Recommended Military Strategy developed by the Chairman and the Joint Chiefs of Staff) did not explicitly consider the impact of an INF agreement. Similarly, the NATO force planning

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process may require mid-course adjustment to respond in a timely manner to the changing nuclear and conventional force requirements of the Alliance.

- If and when Senate consideration of an INF agreement begins, the military implications of the agreement will be a major issue. As a result of military analysis developed for the negotiations, both SACEUR and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have concluded that our relative military posture facing the threat to NATO in a post-INF environment could be degraded unless certain identified measures are carried to fruition. A careful review of our plans and programs is, therefore, in order. (C)

In view of the foregoing, I direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy and the Director, Office of Management and Budget, to undertake a prompt review of ongoing U.S. and NATO force planning. This review should be designed to ensure that we have identified the nuclear and conventional capabilities most needed to support NATO's military strategy as we anticipate making the transition to a post-INF environment; and that such capabilities are included, as appropriate, in the pending FY88-89 budget and associated FYDP. The review should focus in particular on the appropriate phasing of changes to U.S. military capabilities that will maintain our contribution to the execution of Alliance military strategy during and after the phaseout of INF forces. (U)

The Secretary of Defense will report to me by December 1, 1987, on the results of this review and measures undertaken to implement this Directive. (U)

Ronald Reagan

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