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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1986

MEETING WITH THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

DATE: Friday, December 19, 1986
LOCATION: Cabinet Room
TIME: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
FROM: ALTON G. KEEL *AK*

I. PURPOSE

This is a regular quarterly meeting with the JCS. Three topics will be discussed: (1) the JCS Interim Report on NSDD-250; (2) the JCS worldwide exercise program; and (3) drug interdiction. No decisions will be requested.

II. BACKGROUND

The focus of the JCS briefing will be NSDD-250. In NSDD-250 you directed the JCS to review the military implications of arms reduction proposals discussed at Reykjavik. Their Interim Report was received December 8th and a written analysis is being prepared by the NSC staff for your review.

In this briefing, however, the Chiefs are prepared to go beyond the Interim Report and provide their initial conclusions on the military implications of a world without ballistic missiles. They will probably present the view that the Army will need more divisions, the Navy more anti-submarine warfare capabilities and sea-launched cruise missiles, and the Air Force greater bomber/ALCM penetration and air defense capabilities. In very gross terms, they will indicate that these additional capabilities will cost more than current projections for defense budgets of the future. (However, JCS cost estimates have not been reviewed by the DOD Comptroller.)

The JCS will also brief you on the worldwide exercise program for U.S. forces and its contribution to foreign policy. The Chiefs see this as a follow-on to their briefing to you in August concerning the importance of the foreign assistance program. In the context of constrained foreign assistance budgets, the exercise program takes on added significance in representing our commitment to friends and allies abroad.

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BY amy NARA, DATE 3/21/00

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Lastly, if time permits, the JCS will bring you up to date on recent drug interdiction activities, including operation BLAST FURNACE in Bolivia.

At Tab A, I have included some issues and questions which you may want to develop during the JCS briefing on NSDD-250.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President, the Vice President, Secretary Weinberger, Mr. Regan, Mr. Keel, Deputy Secretary Taft, Admiral Crowe, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Official photographer only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

I will open the meeting and turn it over to Secretary Weinberger, who will introduce the subject matter. Admiral Crowe and the Chiefs will begin the briefing. No formal remarks are required.

cc: The Vice President
Don Regan

Attachment
Tab A Issues for Development

Prepared by
Michael Donley

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

ACTION

December 17, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR ALTON G. KEEL

FROM: MICHAEL DONLEY

SUBJECT: JCS Meeting with the President

The JCS will see the President Friday morning during NSC time in a regularly scheduled, quarterly meeting.

The JCS will report their initial conclusions on NSDD-250 which, of course, go beyond the procedural description contained in the Interim Report. As time permits, they will also brief the President on the JCS exercise program and drug interdiction activities. No decisions will be requested.

The sequence of events calls for you to open the meeting (no specific remarks have been prepared), and turn it over to Secretary Weinberger. Admiral Crowe will brief the President, supplemented by the individual Chiefs.

At Tab A we have included a list of issues related to NSDD-250 which the President may want to pursue during the JCS briefing. In general, the issues and questions are designed to coincide with your return memo to SecDef and JCS after the briefing, which is the subject of Lint Brooks' package. However, these briefings do not usually result in a free-wheeling discussion, so it is not clear that they will be used.

Recommendation

That you initial and forward the meeting memo to the President at Tab I.

Approve *R*

Disapprove _____

Bob Linhard, *Don Mahley* and *Linton Brooks* concur.

cc: Bill Cockell

Attachments

Tab I Meeting Memorandum for the President
Issues for Development

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JCS Meeting with the President

ISSUES FOR DEVELOPMENT

NSDD-250

OVERALL SIZE OF NUCLEAR ARSENAL

- In a world without ballistic missiles, the JCS see increasing demand for cruise missiles. Can we expect to see an actual reduction in nuclear weapons, or does the JCS see a requirement for the same number of weapons we have today?

COST ESTIMATES

- Have JCS cost estimates been 'scrubbed' by Secretary Weinberger's office, and does he concur?

NATO STUDY

- What are NATO's plans for studying the proposal for zero ballistic missiles in Europe? What are JCS views on how this should be handled by Gen. Rogers and other U.S. representatives?

NEXT STEPS

- Without ballistic missiles on either side, the NSDD-13 priorities for allocating weapons against the Soviet target base would have to be re-evaluated. What should be our next step internally to evaluate how we and the Soviets would view nuclear deterrence, and how it would operate, without ballistic missiles?

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National Security Council
The White House

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Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	_____
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
Rodman/Cockell	_____	_____	_____
Al Keel	<u>2</u>	<u>✓</u>	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Florence Gantt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>R</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

TPs to President re JCS meeting
 NSC/S- 2/22
 attached are
 talking points on
 NSDD 250 which
 Adm Cockell prepared
 for the JCS mtg
 w/ Pres on
 Friday. You may
 want to add to
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Clm

Ex Sec NSC
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Box 405...



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TALKING POINTS

- Main topic will be JCS response to NSDD-250 by which you tasked them to provide plan for safe transition to a ballistic-missile-free world in 10 years.
- JCS have provided interim report which describes approach they are taking and lays down some markers indicating cost will be high. Final report due 31 January. We will provide some feedback, once you have reviewed it, aimed at keeping their analytical techniques from biasing results.
- Chiefs' main aim today will be to sensitize you to the high costs they expect their final report to validate. (Though figures are very premature, defense plus-ups of 40-50 billion a year are being discussed informally.) Each Chief will discuss implications for his own Service.
- Would be useful for you to stress three points:
 - Ballistic-missile-free world remains our goal; no backing away from the Reykjavik proposals. Gains in stability would clearly enhance our security.
 - You are relying heavily on Chiefs to apply their collective wisdom to this fundamental issue and devise a solution for things which is militarily sound, but without overblown "shopping lists" for things which are not really essential to achieve the goal.

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-- Military judgment is the key. Analysts will always tend to look at problem in stereotyped, traditional ways. Depending on Chiefs to apply their judgment, experience, vision and imagination to this exceptionally complex strategic issue. Great challenge -- and great opportunity -- to make progress of historic dimensions.

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