

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

1/29/74

I agree that we need to re-emerge our SALT support activities. I would like to see us follow the pattern we established before, where [redacted] was the focal point and was supported by the technical people -- [redacted] has been the focal point, and [redacted] is certainly right for the SIGINT support. I would anticipate that [redacted] would also provide

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

photo support when needed.

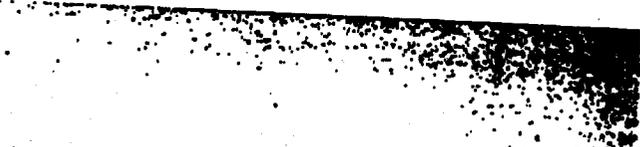


DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

1 Feb 74

I called Dr Wikner last week. He indicated that NRO participation would be most welcome. I advised that I would make a similar recommendation to you.



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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Not Sent

THE NRO STAFF

February 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL KULPA

SUBJECT: SALT Support

The purpose of this memo is to recommend that the NRO offer formal support to the DOD SALT Task Force.

On Saturday evening, 13 January 1974, I was called by Lt Colonel C. Pettyjohn, the DIA member of the DOD SALT Task Force. The purpose of the call was to ask my assistance the following morning in reviewing sixteen proposed areas of possible SAL negotiations. I advised Lt Colonel Pettyjohn that I was no longer in the DIA and was not authorized to represent the NRO in these matters. He then requested my advice on a non-attribution basis. I concurred and reviewed the proposals in the morning with two members of the ASD/I Staff and the DIA member. The proposals all involved verification to some degree by NRO assets. The proposals were sent to Dr. N. Fred Wikner, Chairman of the DOD SALT Task Force and then to the Secretary of Defense for forwarding to the National Security Council. During the review, I found that there was no formal interface between the Wikner group and the NRO.

It appears that it would be mutually advantageous to establish an interface.

The DOD SALT Task Force is only a few months old and serves to provide a direct input to Secretary Schlesinger on SALT matters. Dr. Wikner is responsible for unifying and coordinating SALT policy but has no real staff except for the Task Force group, of which Colonel Pettyjohn is a member. It is composed of representatives from various OSD elements such as ASD(I), ASD(ISA), SA, DDR&E and DIA. JCS representatives sit in on Task Force meetings as observers.

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NRO has maintained a continuing interface with the SALT process since its inception. Initially, General Allen steered a group in 1970 which assessed the verification aspects of potential terms of defensive and offensive agreements. Following the initiation of the talks at SALT I our interface has been one of working with the JCS action group and the OSD System Analysis group heretofore responsible for framing the various positions in the Verification Panel Working Group. It appears as if the SALT Task Force will act as the OSD focal point instead of System Analysis Office.

The substantive issues of discussion for SALT II negotiating are much the same as were prepared for SALT I in the offensive area such as MIRV, land Mobile ICBM and forward-basing. Verification was of high concern during SALT I, therefore there were verification annexes to most of the substantive papers. NRO followed these issues in SALT I - the same issues by and large are being refocused upon in SALT II - by participating in the interagency review as consultants. [redacted] serves as the Staff focal point with necessary support from [redacted] when technical issues were at hand. The verifiability of the basic issues are reasonably well-known such as very low for MIRV production, low for MIRV testing under cheating conditions and medium for high levels of retrofit or deployment. Verifiability of corollary SAL issues is not well understood yet.

It appears as if during SALT II, there is a divided camp on the necessity for high-confidence verification in that all interagency participants, including CIA, except for JCS and OSD are saying that verifiability is not completely essential for an offensive treaty. It then appears that our input to the SALT Task Force would be one of keeping all of the players aware of the pitfalls of NRP limitations. If this is adequately done, then a less than verifiable offensive treaty would be entered into by intent and not through ignorance. It should be mentioned that Carl Duckett is the leading interagency proponent for the adequacy of low-confidence verification if it permits the consummation of an offensive treaty.

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In view of the foregoing, request you consider advising Mr. Plummer to forward the letter enclosed in the attached folder. The implementing letter from you to Dr. Wikner, at the right, should be forwarded after an appropriate reply from Dr. Wikner.

[REDACTED]
Lt Colonel, USAF

[REDACTED]

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DOD SALT TASK FORCE (DR. WIKNER)

SUBJECT: NRO Representative to DOD SALT Task Force

I have appointed Lt Colonel [REDACTED] to represent the NRO on the DOD SALT Task Force. Lt Colonel [REDACTED] is my Assistant Deputy Director, Concepts and Applications. His alternate is Colonel [REDACTED] Deputy Director, Concepts and Applications. Both officers can be contacted on extension 52594.

JOHN E. KULPA, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: NRO Support of DOD SALT Task Force

I recommend you forward the letter on the right to Dr. N. Fred Wikner, Chairman of the DOD SALT Task Force. The purpose of the letter is to offer NRO technical expertise to the Task Force. Dr. Wikner has indicated informally that he would welcome NRO participation. This relationship, I feel, will insure a realistic technical and fiscal appraisal of NRP assets in a SAL verification role.

As to an NRO nominee, I recommend Lt Colonel [REDACTED] USAF [REDACTED] who briefed you on this subject last [REDACTED]. Lt Colonel [REDACTED] has had previous SAL experience as a member of the DIA SAL support staff and until assigned to SAFSS served as the DIA member of the SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Sub-Committee of the USIB.

A copy of Dr. Wikner's charter from Dr. Schlesinger is attached for your information.

JOHN E. KULPA, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

1 Atch
Memo frm Dr. Schlesinger,
Sept 15, 73, subj: Dir
of DOD SALT Task Force

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON D. C. 20301

SEP 15 1973

**MEMORANDUM FOR Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, Defense Research and Engineering
Assistant Secretaries of Defense
General Counsel
Director of Defense Program Analysis & Evaluation
Assistants to the Secretary of Defense
Directors of Defense Agencies**

SUBJECT: Director of DoD SALT Task Force

The outcome of the SALT negotiations can have a decisive effect on our strategic military forces and the national security of the United States and our allies. I strongly believe that the Department of Defense must play a vigorous and constructive role in the SALT negotiations and must speak with a strong and positive voice in the deliberations to develop our national policy. To this end, I have selected Dr. N. Fred Wikner to serve as Director of the DoD SALT Task Force and have charged him with the responsibility of the coordination of Defense SALT policy recommendations. In this capacity, Dr. Wikner will serve as my principal agent internal to the Department and will report directly to me. He will support Mr. Paul Nitze, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for SALT, in his SALT delegation responsibilities and will work with the DDR&E, OJCS, ASD/ISA, ASD/I, ASD/PA, the DDPA&E, and ATSD(AE) in developing and coordinating analyses, actions and policy recommendations on SALT.

Dr. Wikner will also serve as Executive Secretary of a Department of Defense SALT Policy Guidance Committee comprised of myself, the Deputy Secretary, Chairman JCS and other members to be designated. He will be responsible for supporting the Deputy Secretary of Defense in Verification Panel activities and will discharge OSD responsibilities on the Verification Panel Working Group. He will also coordinate any

DoD backstopping actions required in Washington in support of Geneva negotiations and the Standing Consultative Commission. He will coordinate SALT activities with other task force activities on MBFR, NATO, and NSSM 169.

The ASD/Comptroller will make all necessary administrative and support arrangements for Dr. Wikner. Dr. Wikner's appointment is effective on 10 September 1973.

J R Schuler

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DOD SALT TASK FORCE (DR. WIKNER)

SUBJECT: SALT Support

The purpose of this memorandum is to offer technical support to the DOD SALT Task Force. It occurred to me in optimizing the functions of my staff, that the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) did not have an interface with your group except on a policy level. An interface at the technical level could be mutually advantageous. The Task Force would have a point of contact for technical advice; the NRO member could insure the technical and fiscal feasibility of the various SAL scenarios under consideration.

If you concur, or have any comments on this proposal, please contact Brigadier General John E. Kulpa, Jr., Director, Office of Space Systems, OSAF, on extension 78675. General Kulpa is prepared to nominate a member to your Task Force.

J. W. Plummer

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1/4

I think that our principal contact should be directly with Dr. Wechner's immediate office in an on-call consulting role. This should be initiated by us and we should provide our policy/systems briefing to Wechner and his assistant, Col Marshall in order to get it going. This is about the same thrust as we have followed in the past. Rather than becoming members of the DoD Staff Task Force, it would be a better interface if we provide policy and technical advice as opposed to getting drawn into the petty-g Petty differences of opinion within DoD. In addition, we should continue the relationships with the JCS staff as well as the staff in OSD who is responsible to Jim Wade. Whether we like it or not, Carl Overcast will continue to be the "chief verification expert" in the Verification Panel forum. One of our tasks then is to maintain cognizance of ^{whether} our capability is being oversold, undersold or ignored.

During the briefing suggested above, we could work out with Dr. Wechner a series of points of contact whereby ^{Dr. [redacted]} would be called upon to address the issues and ^{Dr. [redacted]} would be the principal player in studies, assessments and the like. I think that this would be a better way to proceed than the letter and memorandum route. ^{Dr. [redacted]}