

December 17, 2003

TO: Dr. Condoleezza Rice

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: PC Meetings

Condi—

We seem to have fallen into a practice where your staff periodically asks that one of the combatant commanders or subcommanders participate in a PC.

Dick Myers, Pete Pace and I have discussed this issue. We are uncomfortable with that practice, given that the statutory military advisors to the NSC are the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Needless to say, when the President would like a combatant commander or subcommander to participate in a National Security Council meeting, we arrange it. However, with respect to PCs, I suggest we go back to the normal practice of having the Chairman or the Vice Chairman represent the uniformed military in PCs.

DHR:dh
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