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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

16 JAN 1976

Honorable John Stennis
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Attached is the report on modernization alternatives for USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9), with cost of each, as required by House Conference Report 94-413 of July 26, 1975.

The Navy's report makes clear that it is feasible to convert LONG BEACH to an AEGIS ship. Because of the need to get significant numbers of AEGIS ships into the fleet as rapidly as possible, Navy plans concentrate on construction of two new classes of AEGIS-armed ships: The DDG 47 (a variant of the DD 963 class design) and the Strike Cruiser (CSGN). Thus it is planned to defer AEGIS conversion of LONG BEACH until 1984, after the peak funding for DDG 47 and CSGN classes.

For the near term, the Navy plans to overhaul LONG BEACH to permit her to operate effectively until her conversion. Details of this overhaul, scheduled for 1978-79, are shown at TAB A. The first AEGIS system is not expected to be available until March 1980. Current plans are that the later conversion would be to the Strike Cruiser configuration described at TAB B and shown as Alternative 3 in the attached report.

Sincerely,

Attachments 3 w/o
See X-0034, A-560 (17 Dec 75)

16 Jan 76
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SEC DEF CONTR No. X-0035





DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Price BL
15 JAN 1976

6 January 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Response to Congressional Direction and Correspondence
Concerning AEGIS Conversion of USS LONG BEACH -
ACTION MEMORANDUM

The two letters for your signature at Tabs A and B are in response to Congressional direction and correspondence. (See Tab C for brief description of background.) These letters, which are modifications of letters proposed by the Secretary of the Navy, are consistent with a decision reached by Bill Clements in early December after conferring with the Navy. (A copy of the Secretary of the Navy's correspondence is attached at Tab E.)

I believe that the AEGIS shipbuilding program, upon which these letters touch directly, will be an immediate, major issue in your Congressional testimony. I have reason to believe that Chairman Price may react adversely at our rejection of his suggestion to make the LONG BEACH a "prototype" for all AEGIS ships, and may try to block our request for the DDG 47 and CSGN.

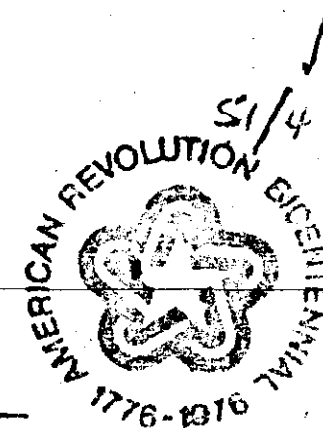
RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you get Bill Clements' views and then confer with Mel Price directly to lay the groundwork and to gauge the extent of his personal feelings, prior to signing these letters. →

Time has not permitted coordination of these memorandums with the interested Assistant Secretaries of Defense, but their views have been taken into account, where known.

Malcolm R. Currie
Malcolm R. Currie

Done You could well add that AEGIS won't be ready in time for the C478 overhaul of LONG BEACH -- first system will arrive in C480.
② Otherwise concure in letter, and in Currie assessment above

James V. ... 0035
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ASD (LA) *Joy*

