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SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

In reply refer to:
I-10289/76

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with State Secretary Dr. Siegfried Mann, Ministry of
Defense, Federal Republic of Germany (U)

Participants:

Federal Republic of Germany

State Secretary Dr. Siegfried Mann, Ministry of Defense
Mr. Hans Eberhard, Director of Armaments, Ministry of Defense
Rear Admiral Kurt Seizinger, Defense Attache, Embassy of the FRG
Mr. Fred Brauner, Office of the German Military Representative to the
United States and Canada, Washington (Interpreter)

United States

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld
Dr. Malcolm R. Currie, Director, Defense Research and Engineering
Mr. Eugene V. McAuliffe, Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA)
Mr. Maynard W. Glitman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA),
European and NATO Affairs

Time, Day and Date: 1345-1410 Hours, Wednesday, 15 September 1976

Place: Office of the Secretary of Defense

1. (d) US-FRG Tank Harmonization Program. Dr. Mann said that he and others in Bonn have been concerned about the future of the tank harmonization program in view of the problems it is encountering in Congress, but that his talks with Mr. Clements have satisfied him that the situation is much better than it appears. SecDef acknowledged that we, too, are concerned and that the situation is a little ragged around the edges. However, when it sorts itself out, we should come out all right because we are doing the right thing. He reminded Mann that we are in a political season and that, in such circumstances,, some people may take-positions for opti-
ca 1 reasons..

Dr. Mann related his willingness to purchase and install a turbine engine in one of the FRG's LEOPARD tanks, immediately, in order to demonstrate

Classified by Director, European Region, OASD(ISA)

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 12-31-82



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good will, the German commitment and Germany's confidence in the US commitment to tank harmonization.

Secretary Rumsfeld pointed out that when Congress recesses, the problems we're now having on the Hill will be behind us. Dr. Mann asked whether SecDef is concerned about a delay in the program, to which the Secretary responded that we hope not and we think it will move ahead. At this point, SecDef noted the problems with the B-1 bomber and how Congress in effect has provided funds between now and 1 February 1977 sufficient to carry on B-1 development as planned. He pointed out, however, that the tank and B-1 programs differ because the former has a US-FRG component. Some critics are saying, he continued, that we entered into the tank program for international political reasons. But we know that we entered into it because it made sense for US defense and security. AWACS also is important to defense, but it has never been linked to the tank program. The tank program is coming along all right; we will keep pressing the contractors to submit their bids and make early evaluation of those bids. Dr. Mann responded that the Germans, too, were embarrassed by Mr. Damm and hope that we did not believe he was representing their position.

Dr. Mann went on to say that the first decision we must take is in November of this year when we decide among the contractors. By 15 January we will need to make a bilateral decision on the tank gun, a decision in which the UK also is interested. SecDef said that we have talked to the British about the gun issue and have tried to be honest with them. We have told them that if the UK can provide the best gun in a reasonable time, it will be given serious consideration. Mr. McAuliffe asked Mann whether the Germans have had any discussions with the British on this problem. Mann replied that the Germans have not been talking much with the British. They hesitate to inform us fully of their intentions, he said, however, the Germans recognize the UK's position and its interest in the issue. It is unfortunate, SecDef responded, that you and the British have not been able to work out this problem. Dr. Mann noted that he had seen Mason recently and that Mason said the UK would push the cause of its gun with the US. The UK view is mainly the result of British industrial concerns: they argue that they have been successful in the past and that gun design and fabrication are their fields. We Germans,, Mann continued, don't care which gun is adopted provided it is best and ready on time. We will meet with the British and discuss this issue in October. SecDef agreed and pointed out that the problem certainly is not one of jobs; all countries involved in the program will get work. The question is the best gun in the necessary time. Mann countered that, moreover, the problem is not one of export for the FRG: Germany is not interested in exporting to non-NATO areas and is willing to enter into open competition concerning sales within the NATO area.

2. (C) Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). Mr. McAuliffe noted that just as the tank issue is an important one for the Alliance, so is



AWACS. Programs of this sort pull together the Alliance and enhance the top leadership's control over forces in the field. Mann agreed, but pointed out that we began by seeking a 32-aircraft AWACS fleet and then dropped to a 27-aircraft fleet. He noted that this will be hard to explain to the Bundestag whose members will ask why we shouldn't drop to 20 planes. SecDef said that he had the feeling that even within the US the arguments in favor of AWACS had evolved somewhat. This was true, but it was because our Air Force, as it developed AWACS, saw that it had broader values than first envisaged. AWACS can thus be politically beneficial. Dr. Mann responded that the Germans see a tight connection between SAM-D (PATRIOT) and AWACS. The Alliance needs a convincing military and political conceptual approach covering broad European air defense. He noted that the Germans are not sure that the FRG can find the funds for procurement: no single Service wants to take on AWACS and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, therefore, has been tasked to act as program coordinator. According to Mann, the Germans think this novel approach will work. Secretary Rumsfeld emphasized that AWACS is a military requirement, but one which will require a political decision to make it a reality. We champion AWACS because it will have a positive cohesive impact on the Alliance and will strengthen Alliance security.

Prepared by :
M. W. Glitman, DASD(ISA),
European and NATO Affairs

Coordination:

Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA)

Date: 9/29/76

Approved by:

MIL ASST

Secretary of Defense

Date: 9-30-76

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