

Lee
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March 20, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
WITH GENERAL MILTON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1974

I met with Ross Milton. The first subject was Force Proposals. I told him that Schlesinger wanted it and I didn't want Schlesinger to arrive out here for the DPC and have nothing done. We want the military people to do it and they didn't want to do it. There is no perfect time to do these things, because it is always in the middle of a cycle. My feeling is that we don't have gigantic expectations as to what it will produce, but at least the effect of the discussions in the DPC will eventually creep back to the various national capitals and those forces in those countries that want to do something about these problems of low cost, no cost, standardization, inoperability and the like will be strengthened and maybe it will have an affect over a period of time, maybe we will learn how to do it better the next time and maybe the military will participate next time. I said I didn't like the fact he was back in Washington saying that Clinard was inept, because he is about the best civil servant we have on the staff on the defense side.



He apologized and said he didn't mean it and he agrees with me on Clinard. He said this problem came up while I was gone, or he would have talked to me, but he happened to be back there, so on and so on. He now apparently has some decent instructions, and in any event he gave me what he is going to send around to the Military Committee.

In the Administrative area, I said look I really didn't care what he did, but I wanted him to get off the dime-- either agree or disagree, do part of it, or something-- but we have some personnel decisions we want to make. He told me about NADGE and that JCS doesn't want to do it unless it is transferred in the Pentagon. I said that is just fine, it is bureaucratic nonsense, but that is fine we will leave it like it is.

