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March 21, 2006

TO: Eric Edelman
CC: Gen Pete Pace
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *DR.*
SUBJECT: Missile Defense Exercise in the Middle East

Attached is a memo from Van Galbraith suggesting we consider an Aegis Middle East missile defense exercise focused on the Black Sea, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman or the Eastern Mediterranean.

Please let me know what you think.

Thanks.

Attach. 3/17/06 OSDRep-Europe memo to SD re: Aegis Middle East Missile Defense Exercise

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Please Respond By April 27, 2006



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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
REPRESENTATIVE - EUROPE

2006
3/21

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

March 17, 2006

FROM: Evan G. Galbraith

SUBJECT: Aegis Middle East Missile Defense Exercise

I spoke with those below about having an Aegis Middle East missile defense exercise either in the Black Sea, Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman or the Mediterranean.

The purpose would be twofold, one, to demonstrate to Iran our ability to shoot down their existing operational missiles and to launch a rapid missile counterstrike against their launch sites and two, a move toward bringing NATO into a missile defense against an Iranian nuclear threat. This exercise could lead to our being able to invoke against a threatening Iran a no-missile-testing zone wherein Iranians would be prohibited from launching missiles into pre-designated battle spaces.

The possible countries for the launch site or for a forward-based radar include Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Oman and others. Some may decline, e.g., Turkey.

The exercise would be conducted by the U.S. Navy and the Missile Defense Agency, but NATO personnel and ships would be invited to participate and observe, gathering data for a future NATO decision.

Having this Aegis exercise would lead to our having a new option on Iran that falls in between a probable European wimp out and an Israeli air strike. It would be defensive but pro-active. And who knows, it might be dissuasive, causing the Iranians to reconsider whether or not they should go the nuclear route. If they build the Bomb the purpose would be to blackmail, not to shoot, because the latter would mean the retaliatory destruction of Iran. And maybe an effective NATO missile defense would render Iran's blackmail card useless.


EVAN G. GALBRAITH

CC: SECNAV Donald Winter
USD/P Eric Edelman
USD/I Dr Stephen Cambone
CNO ADM Michael Mullen
Dir, MDA LtGen Trey Obering
Amb Victoria Nuland
Dir, NATO Policy Mr. Anthony Aldwell

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