

NAVAL MESSAGE

SECRET

NAVY DEPARTMENT

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R 131118Z
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SECRET

STUDY OF THE GENERAL POLITICO-MILITARY EVENTS AND HOW THEY WILL AFFECT FUTURE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA (U).

A. USCINCEUR ECJC-P 14034 DTG 010948Z

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS ARE SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO REF A, WHICH REQUESTED CONCEPTUAL OR BROAD IDEAS APPROPRIATE TO SUBJECT STUDY.

2. THE STEADY EROSION OF OUR OVERSEAS BASE RIGHTS AND FACILITIES HAS RENDERED PLANNING FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WHEREIN LARGE AREAS ARE PROBABLY NO LONGER ACCESSIBLE AS ENVISIONED IN CURRENT PLANS. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY INDICATION THAT THIS TREND CAN BE REVERSED OR EVEN RETARDED, IT APPEARS THAT THE MOST LIKELY SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM LIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS WHICH PLACE MINIMUM RELIANCE ON FIXED BASES AND/OR OVERFLIGHT PRIVILEGES. ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD RESIST FURTHER RETREAT FROM EXISTING BASE RIGHTS, AND SEEK TO IMPROVE OUR POSITION WHERE POLITICALLY FEASIBLE, WE MUST NON-THE-LESS BE PREPARED TO FACE THE FACTS OF LIFE AND SHOULD PLAN CONCURRENTLY FOR A WORSENING TREND. IN THIS CONNECTION THE INDIAN OCEAN MIGHT WELL BE THE KEY TO THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION, AND SHOULD BE FULLY EXPLOITED.

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3. THE FOREGOING COMMENT LEADS TO THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR SUBJECT STUDY:

- A. POLICY REVIEW SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THAT OF MIDDLE EAST, BUT SHOULD EXTEND TO ALL GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH DO, OR MIGHT, PROVIDE AVENUES OF APPROACH TO THIS AREA. THE ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED AS POTENTIAL BASES, SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY SCRUTINIZED.
- B. THE STUDY SHOULD INCLUDE THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL REACTIONS OF THOSE COUNTRIES IN WHICH RIGHTS EXIST VIS A VIS THE SEVERAL CONTINGENCIES. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES BASE RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES THOUGHT TO BE AVAILABLE COULD NOT BE USED WHEN NEEDED.
- C. ALTHOUGH ITS NEED HAS BEEN SPOTLIGHTED BY THE PROBLEMS OF PLANNING FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, THE STUDY SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO CONTINGENCIES. THERE ARE NORMAL, EVERYDAY OPERATIONS WHICH ARE RENDERED INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT BY THE RETREAT FROM FOREIGN BASE RIGHTS. THE STUDY THEREFORE SHOULD REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR NORMAL PEACETIME OPERATIONS, AND FOR GENERAL WAR.
- D. WHERE THERE IS AN OBVIOUS SHORT-FALL BETWEEN THE BASE REQUIREMENTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EXISTING PLANS AND THOSE WHICH ARE OR WILL BE AVAILABLE, THERE SHOULD BE A SCRUTINY OF ALTERNATIVE MILITARY MEANS TO ASSURE THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF STATED OBJECTIVES. POSSIBLY THIS ANALYSIS SHOULD BE MADE PHASE FOUR WITHIN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.
- E. THE TIME FRAME OF FIVE YEARS FOR VALIDITY OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO AT LEAST EIGHT YEARS TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE LEAD TIME, AND THE STUDY SHOULD BE UP-DATED ON A YEARLY BASIS. GP-3.

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