

275: NSF, Country File (Br218, UK, UK Defense Review, 1/21/66) 4d-1

UK DEFENSE REVIEW

January 27, 1966.

~~SECRET~~

UKR/G-2 Addendum

January 21, 1966

SUMMARY OF JOINT STATE-DEFENSE SCOPE PAPER

1. Problem

a. The British have been engaged in an intensive review of their defense posture and its relationship to their resources, commitments and interests. They are presumably prepared to discuss the results of their review on January 27.

b. Although they have focussed considerable attention on the budgetary aspects of their review, it seems evident that their concerns go much deeper, and that their fundamental interest is in coming to terms with us on the dimensions of their future overseas role and its complementarity to the US posture, looking ahead five or ten years.

c. The best information now available suggests that what the British are likely to propose on January 27 will involve comparatively minor and, from our viewpoint, generally manageable adjustments in their overseas military posture, at least for the next two or three years.

2. Outline of Probable British Position and Proposed US Reaction

a. UK forces in NATO: no significant change; US agrees.

b. UK forces in Mediterranean: gradual phase-down in Malta, willingness to give up one base in Cyprus, and a substantial reduction in military resources devoted to their commitments in Libya. US accept phase-down in Malta and Cyprus provided UK retains CENTO commitment and uses phase-out in Cyprus to assist in Cyprus settlement; urge them to retain their treaty commitment in Libya, a significant military presence in Cyrenaica and a capability to intervene with forces from the outside.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

~~SECRET~~

NLJ 93-268

Group 3

By Ch, NARA Date 10-31-97

Downgraded at 12 year intervals;  
not automatically declassified.

c. UK Commitment in Southern Africa: close out when High Commission Territories become independent. US urge that their security commitment and military presence be continued.

d. UK Presence in Western Hemisphere: scale down substantially; US encourage continuing UK contact with Guyana on security problems.

e. Aden and Persian Gulf: close out Aden in 1968, with some build-up in the Persian Gulf. US accept, but stress requirement for maintaining adequate peace-keeping capability in the general area.

f. Indian Ocean Islands: interest in working with ]  
US on future plans. US encourage this.

g. Singapore-Malaysia-Hong Kong: maintain essentially current force levels for the present; concerned over tenure at Singapore; scale down forces substantially when confrontation ends; probably reduce Hong Kong garrison. US oppose force reductions now in Singapore-Malaysia; urge retention of Singapore as long as possible; accept reduction in Hong Kong garrison.

h. Four-power arrangements: propose discussion of new framework in Far East including alternate bases. US agree to discussion, including talks with Australia and New Zealand; avoid formal four-power arrangements; no specific commitment pending further study.

### 3. Follow-Up

a. We are very interested in deciding on arrangements for follow-up discussions and studies on specific problem areas.

b. We are concerned that public disclosure of our planning with the UK avoid creating the impression of major British retrenchments or formal "white nation" arrangements in the Far East.