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NPR REPORT #14

By: Col Rhoades

Working Group 5

MEETING SPECIFICS: 10 Nov, 1300-1600, J-8 Brown Room

ATTENDEES: Normal Group. Dr Wallerstein chaired meeting.

MEETING AGENDA/OBJECTIVES:

- Dr Wallerstein identified four themes to discuss:
 1. What are WMDs?
 2. What is potential threat to US interests?
 3. Where are we most concerned?
 4. Why do nations acquire?
- DIA briefing on country's motivations to acquire WMDs.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS:

- Dr Wallerstein stated that current definition of WMDs includes nuclear, chemical, biological and delivery systems. Ask if advanced conventional weapons should be included.

- Extensive debate over this issue.

-- Lt Col Rock (AF/XOX) appear to favor including, but rationale not clear.

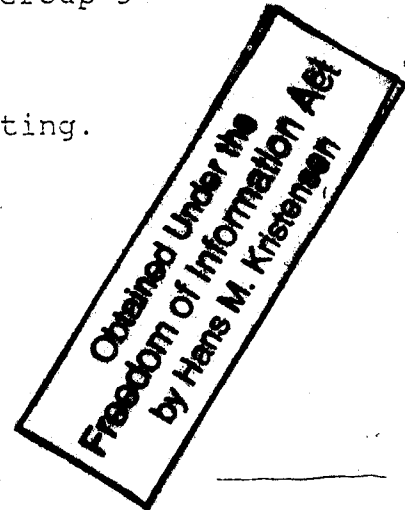
-- Col Shanahan (J-5) sees advanced conventional weapon technology as serious proliferation problem, but such technology should not be included in the nuclear posture review. Nonproliferation/export control the right forum to address that issue.

-- Mr Hulcher (OSD/A) and Mr Altfeld did not want advanced conventional weapons included.

-- I concurred with majority in excluding this type of technology from study. First, there is no definition of what is meant by advanced conventional weapon technology. Second, international community has ban on WMDs as illegitimate weapons because of their effects, yet it's very hard to make apples-to-apples comparison of WMD weapons to technology, and we should not

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try to do so. Finally, such inclusion could, in fact, block development of weapon systems that could provide the US with the capability to counter WMDs possessed by a potential adversary.

- General group consensus: WMDs are nuclear, chemical, biological weapons and their delivery systems. However, final report should indicate that advanced conventional weapon technology may cause the expansion of WMD definition at a later date.

- Potential threats to US interests.

-- Mr Hulcher summarized his paper:

--- Intelligence capability will be severely stressed to meet threat of proliferation.

--- Assessment of capabilities (adversary) difficult at best.

--- Uncertainty major theme.

--- Resources to hedge/counter constrained.

--- Strategic forces remain best hedge against uncertainty.

---- Specifically, how do you deal with regional conflict with WMDs in region? Strat may be initial answer.

-- Group outlined threats to US as follows:

--- Uncertainty about potential use/effects.

--- US freedom of actions.

--- Deter allies.

--- State-sponsored terrorism.

--- Ingredient in MRCs.

--- Degrade military operations/defenses.

--- Upsets deterrence balance.

--- Limits to power projection.

--- Human suffering.

--- Regional equalizer.

--- International norms.

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- Ms Woolf made point that US would be forced to reassess our vital interest in each region as WMDs spread. Cited US willingness to defend Europe in face of such threat because we believed a unified Europe not under Soviet domination was worth risk of confrontation. Would Somalia be addressed differently if warring factions possess WMDs?

- Mr Rowland present analysis of several case studies on countries with WMDs to provide motivations. Include:

- Regional harmony
- Prestige
- Extortion
- Leverage
- Deter US, other outside influences
- Equalizer

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME:

- Group agreed on definition of WMDs as noted above.
- Accepted DIA list of motivations.
- Agreed that threat to US was basically sound, with only minor refinement required.

WHAT'S NEXT:

- Group to accelerate meeting schedule.
 - 15 Nov, 1400-1600, Room TBD
 - 17 Nov, 1300-1600, 1D383
 - 18 Nov, 0900-1200, 4C-762
- Dr Wallerstein indicated that after Thanksgiving, subworking groups would be formed to begin drafting report. This may present manpower crunch for LCDR Nedervold and myself since Group 6 is also expanding meeting schedule. Will assess next week to determine impact.
- Dr Wallerstein also tasked out next set of questions. (Enc A) We may provide responses as desired.
- Dr Wallerstein will also be in Bonn, Germany next week so Mr Stevens will chair working group.

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OTHER: Gen McCaffrey has initiated Joint Staff reporting process for working groups. ✓

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Attachment

Enclosure A - Group 5 Drafting Assignments (S)

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This document, as redacted, was released as part of USSTRATCOM FOIA Case # 97-66.