

The original documents are located in Box C38, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 4/9/1976” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES T. LYNN
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEB*
SUBJECT: 1977 Security Assistance
Authorization Bill

The President reviewed your memorandum of April 7 on the above subject and made the following decisions:

Whether to forward MAAG amendment now.

Send legislation now without MAAG amendment.

When to forward MAAG amendment later.

Direct an immediate interagency review be conducted to develop the basis for sending up an amendment to the 1977 bill in this session.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

1977 Security Assistance Authorization Bill

The attached memorandum was staffed to Messrs. Marsh and Friedersdorf.

Jack Marsh - favors DOD's recommendation to send legislation now requesting 31 MAAGs be authorized in 1978-79.

Max Friedersdorf - favors OMB's recommendation send legislation now without MAAG amendment. He further favors - Option 1 - Direct an immediate interagency review be conducted to develop the basis for sending up an amendment to the 1977 bill in this session.

Jim Connor



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

APR 7 - 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: James S. Lynn

SUBJECT: 1977 Security Assistance Authorization Bill

State has forwarded for clearance the security assistance legislation for fiscal 1977. Both houses of Congress have begun hearings even before the 1976 bill is passed and Chairman Morgan has urged the Administration's bill be transmitted as soon as possible.

Since the fiscal 1976 authorizing legislation has not yet been enacted, the proposed 1977 bill makes only minimum essential amendments to existing law and, generally, does not attempt to anticipate the changes that might be necessitated by the pending fiscal 1976 security assistance authorization bill. In order to comply with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the 1977 bill also requests authorizations for fiscal 1978 security assistance programs on a "such sums as may be necessary" basis.

All agencies are in agreement on the proposed 1977 bill except for one issue. The fiscal 1976 security assistance bill just out of conference eliminates military assistance advisory groups and similar military missions (MAAGs) worldwide after fiscal 1977, unless individually authorized by the Congress. However, the bill authorizes up to three U.S. military personnel to be assigned to U.S. diplomatic missions to perform functions previously performed by MAAGs.

The issue is whether or not to seek an amendment in the 1977 bill requesting that certain MAAGs be authorized after September 30, 1977. Defense strongly recommends that the Administration seek to continue to operate 31 of the 44 existing MAAGs in fiscal years 1978 and 1979. Defense believes we should seek a decision at this time in order to plan an orderly phaseout of those MAAGs which will be eliminated.

State agrees that we should seek legislative authorization of MAAGs in the 1977 legislation but does not support submitting a request at this time. State believes the Defense proposal is inadequately justified and recommends an expedited and intensive Executive Branch review in order to formulate a sound, defensible proposal for transmittal within the next few weeks as an amendment to the 1977 authorization bill.

OMB agrees that an intensive review of the Defense proposal is needed to develop a convincing case for the selective retention of key MAAGs. However, it is unlikely that an adequate review can be completed in time to influence 1977 authorizing legislation that both the Senate and House must report out before May 15. A hasty response not based on a thorough review could jeopardize our chances for Congressional approval.

For these reasons, I recommend a decision on the MAAG issue be delayed for consideration until the 1978 budget and legislative program review in the fall, which would allow time for a comprehensive analysis and submission of Administration proposals when Congress is more likely to be receptive. Under this alternative, there is some risk that Congress might disapprove extension of certain MAAGs only a few months before the expiration date of September 30, 1977. But there is little chance that Congress would act favorably on any request for extension during this session, anyway, and defeat of an amendment in the 1977 bill would make it more difficult to persuade the next Congress to reconsider. If the Congress should not authorize some MAAGs next spring, we could request extension of the deadline to permit an orderly phaseout.

Decisions:

Whether to forward MAAG amendment now.

Send legislation now without MAAG amendment.
(State, NSC, OMB recommendation)

NA?

Send legislation now requesting 31
MAAGs be authorized in 1978-79.
(Defense recommendation)

When to forward MAAG amendment later. If you approve withholding a MAAG amendment at this time, there are three options for later transmittal:

Option 1. Direct an immediate interagency review be conducted to develop the basis for sending up an amendment to the 1977 bill in this session.
(State, NSC recommendation)

me3

Option 2. Direct an interagency review be conducted to develop the basis for proposing an amendment in 1978 legislation.
(OMB recommendation)

Option 3. Defer decision at this time.
