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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Poland

Please make me a  
copy of that article on  
The Armies capabilities,  
see 145 Hoffman's comments

Send copy 4/19/76

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1976

up 4/17/76

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of April 12-16, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled 36,100 pieces. As in the past weeks, it was generally diverse in nature; however, there does appear to be growing public concern about U.S. foreign policy positions and U.S. military capabilities.

The focus of this concern appears to be Secretary Kissinger. For the past several weeks, you have been receiving an average 100 letters per week critical of Mr. Kissinger. Last week, following the Reagan television speech, about 25 wrote in support of Mr. Kissinger. This week the count is pro: 18, con: 141. Writers question whether the Secretary views the U.S. as equal in strength and will to the Soviet Union. They refer to "his words versus his actions." Specifically this week writers protested the so-called "Sonnenfeldt Doctrine," and questioned the solidity of U.S. commitments generally in Europe, Asia and Africa. In addition, 138 wrote to urge against concession of any U.S. rights over the Panama Canal.

Also in this regard, there is some questioning about U.S. military strength and capabilities. This mail is still light, but it appears to be increasing.

You continue to receive mail expressing support and appreciation (245), and also mail offering congratulations and encouragement for the primaries (56). Political comment mail (130) is wide-ranging in subject matter but largely conservative in tone. Writers recommend review and change in the areas of Federal regulation, high taxes, union power, and military strength.

The Middle East and Israel particularly continue to draw public attention. Unlike the Kissinger foreign policy mail, however, Israeli mail appears inspired rather than spontaneous. Nevertheless, this week you were urged to approve additional transition funding for Israel (pro: 347; con: 63) and to disallow sales of arms/aircraft to Egypt (807). Also, Ambassador Scranton's UN remarks about Israeli settlements continued to draw critical response (324).

Other domestic matters of varying public interest included:

1. Animal Transit Bill:  
     pro: 3,270;    con: 220;
2. Hatch Act Amendments (pre-veto):  
     pro:     95;    con: 1,708;
3. Day Care Centers (pre-veto):  
     pro:     14;    con: 235;
4. Supplemental Funding for Postal Service:  
     pro:     170;   con: 3.

cc: Bob Hartmann  
 Ron Nessen  
 Bob Orben

bcc: Gwen Anderson  
 Larry Speakes  
 Judy Berg-Hansen  
 Betty Nolan

April 10 1976

President Gerald R. Ford  
White House  
Washington D.C. 94102

Dear Mr. President:

"If we were to go to war tomorrow, The Army could equip only 51% of its 16 divisions," those are the words of the Secretary of the Army Martin R. Hoffman.

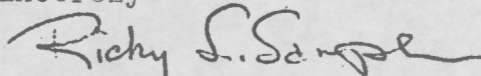
Mr. President, I would like to know if these words are true, I myself do not want to go to war, but if the U.S. does I feel that the U.S. should have equal Armed Forces, of that of the Soviet Union.

In addition Soviet ground Forces is about 3:1 of our ground forces. The USSR has a 6:1 advantage over us in every aspect of Armed Forces.

Inclosed is the article of which I have read these statistics, This article came from the National Enquirer, April 13 1976.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely



Ricky L. Sampson  
1730 G St.  
Napa California  
94558

# U.S. Forces Are So Short of Equipment We'd Be No Match for Soviets in a War

The U.S. armed forces are frighteningly short of vital equipment — so badly undersupplied that in a war with the Soviet Union, we'd be unable to defend ourselves properly, top military experts say.

"If we were to go to war tomorrow, the Army could equip only 51 percent of its 16 divisions," disclosed Secretary of the Army Martin R. Hoffman.

So severe is the shortage of equipment, Hoffman said, that the Army has only 39 percent of the tanks it needs for effective combat, only 51 percent of needed armored personnel carriers, 71 percent of attack helicopters, and 78 percent of artillery.

"This is a critical situation," he admitted.

What's more, our danger will not lessen in the period ahead, said Dr. Malcolm R. Currie, Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

"At present our defense capacity is simply not sufficient," he declared. "And beyond 1977, things will get even worse."

The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Fred C. Weyand, spelled out the effects of our weakness if a conflict should erupt in Europe:

"The Soviet and East European Communist countries enjoy a vast advantage over the U.S. and its NATO allies in numbers of tanks, armored infantry combat vehicles and field artillery pieces.

"In addition, Soviet ground forces alone — without those of their allies — number about 2.5 million men.

"This is more than three times the size of the U.S. Army.

"In the event of a conflict, our Army deployments would be too little and too late."

A worried Congressman Robin Beard (R.-Tenn.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said: "What really scares me is our limited and outdated production capability.

"Witness after witness before this committee has testi-

fied that the U.S. is now at its lowest ebb of military hardware production — while the Soviet Union is now at its height.

"What would happen if we faced a serious conflict? There is no button you could push in the Defense Department that would create plants all of a sudden to start producing munitions.

"The Soviet Union has a 6-to-1 advantage over us in every phase of military production except for helicopters. I'm afraid they're developing a commanding lead."

This fear was echoed by Dr.

Currie, who warned ominously:

"The Soviet lead in artillery over the U.S. is now 7 to 1, in tanks 6 to 1, in tactical aircraft 2 to 1.

"The momentum is now on the side of the Soviets and it is staggering!

"The Soviet Union sees war as inevitable and we have every reason to believe they seek world dominance. Yet we have only the 4th largest army in the world — after China, Russia and India — and our Navy has shrunk to a point too low to protect our interests worldwide."

— LEON WAGENER