

7-8-70 Meeting

More on the prospective JCS meeting with the President.

CJCS views at bottom of page 2 were shared by all JCS--i.e., the National Security Study Memoranda (NSSM-3) and the National Security Decision Memoranda (NSDM-27) both spoke of a 1 1/2 war strategy (against USSR or PRC but not both = 1 1/2 war; against North Korea or NVN but not both = 1/2 war). When it was completely apparent we lacked the capability to handle even 2, 1/2 war situation at time of Pueblo crisis and had gone down hill since.

~~11-4-74~~

7-10-70

The real reason~~for~~ for not cutting DOD in was probably that State/NSC knew DOD would fight the loss of U. S. equipment when our forces were in such poor shape and would demand foreign policy performance from Israel as a ~~guide~~ <sup>guide</sup> for such precious substance.

The Middle East Task Group (METG), which is talked about in later notes, was created in DOD to assure no further goofs as a result of this flap.

NOTES TO 7-10-70

#1 SECDEF was saying we couldn't handle a crisis in the future without mobilization.

#2 CJCS sounds about like Z -- I was saying we were at 55% on 1 July 70 but headed for 45% by 1 July 71 and markedly lower by 1 July 72 if the budget levels being discussed in this period came to pass.

#3 Again Z sez let's say it since we think it.

#4 I'd like to use Palmer's ~~pesimism~~ here re Army -- later we pick up Ryan at below 50% on AF probability.

#5 Meyer (Vice CSNF) predicts situation that came to pass in Oct 73.

#6 CJCS quote is good one

#7 Z forecast of Oct 73 situation.

NOTES TO 7-17-70

#1 In this meeting CJCS is putting forward the collective JCS judgment re deteriorating power and picks up Z's point re examining other parts of budget in ivew of critical DOD situation.

#2 Note that after Packard initially expressed concern about my probabilities, and after I gave him my July 15 explanation, he liked it and sent to K.

NOTES TO 7-29-00

#1 Services badly needed budget help as a result of higher-than-expected expenditures in war. Yet, politically, President judged couldn't get budget supplemental through Congress if submitted before elections. So the Services readiness went lower and we took even greater risks if a crisis broke out.