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Memorandum for Amb Hambley

Subj: Summary of Discussion Between Capt Weaver and Mr. Lyscom of the UK Delegation E164B

I was engaged at the delegates' reception this evening by Mr. David Lyscom of the UK delegation. I had previously met Mr. Lyscom in Bonn and gave him some initial info on the National Security Provision (NSP) issue.

Mr. Lyscom greeted me by hailing me as "Mr. National Security," followed by a friendly proclamation that I was "causing a lot of trouble." He was aware of Lt Col Salomon's and my previous meeting this evening with Dr. Penman of his delegation and appeared to have been briefed on the substance of that conversation. He asked for additional clarification on what we were "asking for" in our initiative. He expressed concern that we were seeking exclusion for domestic operations and training in support of international operations. He continued that that would leave the British Army able to seek exemption for training they were doing at home in preparation for multilateral operations and that the UK government "wasn't going to play that game." I responded to Mr. Lyscom that I certainly hoped that he didn't think that what militaries do is a game to which he quickly backed away verbally. I continued that it was not our intention to subsume domestic military training and operations in an exemption. I further expressed that an important aspect of our initiative was to ensure allies are as prepared as we are to conduct multilateral operations and that I was concerned that the EU/NATO somehow felt they were accommodating the US instead of embracing an issue relating to their own military readiness.

Mr. Lyscom somewhat acidly added that this seemed to be yet another US demand for flexibility on the Protocol, with which the EU was becoming rather "fatigued." I answered that I can understand the perception but that the military issue should be viewed as something separate that all militaries interested in their readiness should be concerned about. He didn't seem convinced. He added that they had "been in touch" with their MOD and felt that their military was on board with the UK government's policy on this issue. (I am practically certain of a link between this evening's encounter and my conversations last Weds with the UK LNO in the Pentagon and then CDR Whitaker of the UK embassy on this topic. My previous e-mail written immediately after the conversations last Weds details their substance.)

We parted in good spirits with my thanking Mr. Lyscom for his interest and expressing hope that the EU will remain engaged in working toward a mutually beneficial resolution of the initiative. He responded that they would stay engaged but that he wasn't sure they could give us what we're asking for.

Lt Col Salomon and I have an appointment to meet again with Drs. Durrschmidt and Penman later today (2 Dec).

V/r Chris Weaver