

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: NATO ISSUES

RELEASED IN FULL

I. NATO'S 40th ANNIVERSARY

- o The UK has mentioned idea of raising the scheduled NATO North Atlantic Council meeting (spring 1989 in London) to a summit level to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Alliance, and as an opportunity for the new President to meet Allied leaders.

II. MODERNIZATION OF SHORTER RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- o In 1983, at Montebello, NATO agreed to undertake actions to ensure a continuing credible deterrent, while reducing the nuclear stockpile in Europe by 1400 warheads.
- o In 1985 the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe presented recommendations on modernization. These included deployment by 1995 of a 450 km range follow-on to Lance (FOTL), deployment of a 400 km range tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM), and fielding modern 8-inch and 155 mm nuclear artillery rounds to replace older rounds.

III. STATUS OF MODERNIZATION EFFORTS

- o US has introduced a modern 8-inch nuclear artillery round and is developing a new 155 mm nuclear round. Unless lifted, a Congressional production cap of 925 on these rounds will require that a significant number of old rounds be retained.
- o Candidate systems for the follow-on to Lance missile are being considered by the US. A launcher decision is expected by DOD this year; Congress has granted \$7.5 million in development funding for FY89 -- half of the DOD request. The SRAM II has just been selected by the US for development as a tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM). The UK is continuing to examine TASM candidates for its requirements.
- o US development choices need subsequent NATO endorsement.

IV. THE "COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPT" AND GERMAN CONCERNS

- o The Federal Republic will not consider development or deployment decisions until completion of a NATO comprehensive arms control concept study in the spring of 1989 and wants the Concept to include a mandate for negotiations on short-range nuclear forces -- an approach opposed by the US and UK.

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Working visit of U.K.
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