



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

02 October 1997

Office of the Under Secretary

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: SAF/IAD

SUBJECT: Foreign Disclosure Advisory 29B - Air Force Policy for Release of Mission Needs Statements (MNS) and Operational Requirements Documents (ORDs)

The purpose of this advisory is to set the Air Force policy for approving release of MNS and ORDs. SAF/IAD will authorize release of draft or final MNS and ORDs on a case-by-case basis pursuant to potential international cooperative research, development and acquisition (ICR&D&A) programs. The rationale for approving release of MNS and ORDs is to facilitate "initial planning with foreign partners."

The armaments community advocates the use of MNS and ORDS as the basis for discussions with foreign allies to search for areas of mutual interest to establish cooperative programs. Previously, SAF/IAD has approached this argument from a very strict interpretation of the National Disclosure Policy (NDP) concept of "false impression" prior to the conclusion of a specific program MOU. We have worked with the Air Force cooperative armaments office within SAF/IA to reach a solution acceptable to all parties which continues to meet the intent of the NDP guidance and facilitates efforts to develop cooperative programs. SAF/IAD has implemented a process to consider the release of Air Force MNS and ORDS on a case-by-case basis, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The FDO forwards a request identifying the countries to which the MNS or ORDs will be released, the purpose of disclosure and the clearly defined benefit for the U.S.
- b. The requester forwards a copy of the MNS or ORD which has been sanitized in accordance with AFI 16-201, paragraphs 1.9 and 3.2.7.
- c. Once approved, the requesting FDO will ensure that the MNS and ORDs are marked in accordance with AFI 16-201, paragraph 3.2.10.3 and that the following disclaimer is written on the front of the document, "This document is provided for information only. No U.S. commitment to disclose additional information or materiel is intended or implied."

We had one additional concern which we believed might negatively impact this effort to facilitate initial planning efforts. The approval of pre-planning meetings between U.S. and foreign representatives to discuss cooperative opportunities where MNS or ORDs may not be discussed. Therefore, we are taking action to update each MAJCOMs basic DDL and DDLs supporting MOUs on Technology Research and Development Projects (TRDPs) to include authority for information releases prior to the signing of a general MOU or specific project annex, agreement or arrangement. This action will ensure FDOs can approve exploratory discussions when necessary.

We believe the preceding actions will facilitate the initial planning phases for cooperative programs that you may be asked to approve. We are interested in any other disclosure requirements which you believe may hamper the Air Force's ability to flesh out international cooperative armaments opportunities. Your suggestions and comments can be referred to Ms Suzanne Szadai at DSN 225-7208 or at e-mail "SUZANNE.SZADAI@SAF-IA.HQ.AF.MIL".


RICHARD J. MILLIES
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