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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 17, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: Martin Anderson *MCA*

SUBJECT: Summary of report of the President's Commission
on An All-Volunteer Armed Force

The Commission was established on March 27, 1969, and directed to develop a comprehensive plan for eliminating conscription and moving toward an all-volunteer armed force. It was a "blue-ribbon" commission (see Tab A), including Tom Gates, former Secretary of Defense, as Chairman, and Generals Alfred Gruenther and Lauris Norstad, both former Supreme Allied Commanders, Europe.

Starting with the basic premise that the national security of the country is paramount, they examined the pros and cons of an all-volunteer armed force and concluded that the armed forces, including reserve forces, can and should be raised by voluntary means.

Their main recommendations are:

- (1) Raise basic pay for military personnel in the first two years of service from an average level of \$180 a month to \$315 a month, the increase to become effective on July 1, 1970. The basic pay of officers in the first two years should be raised from an average level of \$428 a month to \$578 a month. The estimated annual cost is \$3.24 billion.
- (2) Make comprehensive improvements in conditions of military service. These are spelled out in detail in the report.
- (3) Establish an effective standby draft.

I will send you a copy of the finished report as soon as it comes off the press.

HAC has seen

OK DYL