

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101



1. In response to your draft memo in preparation for the 14 July Principals Committee on Syria, I directed my staff to continue to consider use of intrusive ISR, hot pursuit, and striking targets of opportunity to clearly demonstrate our resolve to the Syrian government. These options could include coercive actions such as:

- Expand ISR to include armed reconnaissance (intrusive ISR)
- Conduct unilateral cross-border action (hot pursuit and striking targets of opportunity)
- Conduct eastern-Mediterranean Freedom of Navigation (show of force)

2. As you are aware, current Syrian efforts have not sufficiently stemmed insurgent flow across their borders to Iraq. In Riyadh, Prince Khalid recently told my JS that during the Iraq-Iran war the Syrians sealed off their border with Iraq. We should demand they replicate that effort now. If this is a matter of Syrian capability we will assist them. If it is a matter of Syrian intent, then we must send a clear message that they will either secure their borders to include insurgent flow in and out or we will do it for them.

3. With respect to targeting, there are no high-confidence targets within Syria directly related to this flow. We have already engaged the Intelligence Community to develop actionable, high-confidence targets within Syria directly linked to the Iraqi insurgency. Last week I instructed my staff to deliver options and target sets by the end of this month. This involves concentration on insurgent points of entry into and routes through Syria to stop this movement.

4. In an effort to demonstrate U.S. resolve, we should also broaden our focus to consider any military action within Syria to communicate our intent. Such measures could include:

- SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS
 - Increase intelligence sharing
 - Provide port of entry and immigration training and equipment
 - Provide biometric equipment to Syria to control ports of entry
 - Conduct bilateral and trilateral operations to include OPE and AFO
 - Establish MNF-I or CENTCOM liaison with the Syrian military or augment DAO
 - Installation of the Raytheon border security project for the IZ-Syrian border

- COERCIVE ACTIONS

-
-
-
-
-

1.4a, 1.4b, 1.4d

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Declassified by: MG Michael X. Garrett,
USCENTCOM Chief of Staff
Declassified on: 201505

5. Our goal is to reduce the flow of insurgents from Syria to Iraq. We believe measures such as those mentioned here will induce Syria to make this happen. To do this, they must change their policies and efforts adverse to Iraqi stability and provide greater support to the Global War on Terror.

JOHN P. ABIZAID
General, U.S. Army
Commander

Approved for Release

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: DoDD 5210.36, 11 June 1986
Declassify: 12 July 2015