

CONSIDERATIONS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE (once the use of force is under consideration) run by weinbeger/powell

1. ANALYSIS of THE SITUATION (the A)

◆ THE GOAL -- THE WHY (the B)

Is there a threat? Is there an opportunity?

Is the issue state-oriented or regional?

What is our goal -- linked to a vital national interest?

How is vital defined?

◆ FACTORS AFFECTING CAUSALITY

What factors will help us achieve our objectives?

What factors will work against our achievement of our objectives?

Who are the players in this situation?

Their goals?

Their capabilities?

Their relationship to the U.S.?

Allies

Neutrals/unknown

Opponents

Are there overlaps in the interests?

2. ANALYSIS OF THE OPTIONS -- THE HOW (the →)

◆ INITIAL THOUGHTS

Why the use of the military now? (The elements of prevention/preemption)

What are the nonmilitary options? (These will have to be analyzed also.)

◆ ANALYSIS of EACH MILITARY OPTION -- THE HOW

What is the military's specific mission/purpose/objective/goal?
-- what is the military to do and cause?

How is that mission linked to our national interest(s)?
– how is military victory related to victory?

What is our capability (power) relative to the opponent?

How might the opponent respond?

What is the role of the other instruments of power?

How should military force be coordinated with the other instruments of power?

An exit strategy must be related to the achievement of goals, which may have to or be changed, and not to a preconceived plan.

Cost/Benefit Analysis (a CRITICAL continuing process):

◆ **The Consequences?**

What may happen if we do not use force?

What may happen if we do use force?

◆ **Other Affected National Interests?**

◆ **Expected costs compared to expected benefits?**

◆ **Is the outcome worth the effort? Benefits > Costs**

◆ **Should the goal be adjusted because C>B?**

Expected Outcome:

◆ **Doable?**

◆ **Likely effect on threat/opportunity and national interest?**

3. CHECKS

Attitude of Other States? Why?

How can we increase the overlap in interests?

How can we get them involved or to stay out?

Attitude of the American People and the Congress? Why?

Can we get “reasonable assurance” of Congressional and

public support?

What are the moral issues involved and how will the use of force affect them?

4. REVIEW

Think again about the threat and the goals.

Have we identified and considered the critical assumptions?

What do we need to know & how can we get that information?

What are the time constraints on our action and on the use of other instruments of power?

Have we considered the arguments against this course of action?

Is there a better course of action than the use of force?