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Briefing Sheet for ~~the Chairman~~ *the Chairman* JCS on a Memorandum by the COFS USAF to be considered at the JCS meeting, 27 March 1961

Subject: JCS 2056/230 - Strategic Target Planning (U)

Background - On 20 Jan 61 - TAB B - SECDEF (Mr. Gates) forwarded to the Chairman, JCS a memo on Strategic Target Planning which expressed the view that incident to further actions to improve such planning there should be included a detailed study by the DSTP and the JCS of an attached memo for the President from Dr. Kistiakowsky.

- On 25 Nov 60 - TAB B - Dr. Kistiakowsky reported to the President the results of a study of the methodology used in preparation of NSTL/SIOP-62. The report concluded that the JSTPS was following JCS directives and that the SIOP was the best possible under the circumstances. Included was recommendation that directive to and procedures used by the DSTP be reviewed toward improving subsequent SIOPs. Also included was a summary of detailed observations covering methodology. In the final paragraph there was made a comparison of SIOP-62 alert force weapons and targets with similar data for Study 2009.

- On 9 Mar 61 - TAB C - the COFS USAF recommended that the DSTP be afforded opportunity to respond to the Dr. Kistiakowsky comments cited above. On 24 March, the JCS acted to send the Kistiakowsky memo to the DSTP for comment.

Current Paper - TAB A - Contains a memo for the SECDEF which points out errors in the comparison of SIOP-62 and Study 2009 statistics made by Dr. Kistiakowsky in the final paragraph of his report to the President. Included is the statement that the JCS consider that Dr. Kistiakowsky's comments are misleading, in that they imply that SIOP-62 is not in conformance with Study 2009, whereas in fact SIOP-62 does conform with that criterion for the NSTL/SIOP which is expressed in terms of Study 2009.

Service Comments - Army, Navy and Marine Corps are expected to recommend deferral of consideration of any such memo to the SECDEF as proposed by the Air Force until receipt of and consideration by the JCS of the DSTP comments on the entire Kistiakowsky memo.

Comment and Recommendation - The statistical comparison of SIOP-62 and Study 2009 made by Dr. Kistiakowsky in his report is in error, as pointed out by the Air Force. However, the error is minor and not likely to disturb the SECDEF. Nor will a report of correction at this time serve any great purpose.

- The prime thrust of the Kistiakowsky report is directed at methodology of preparation of the plan - a matter of importance far greater than the statistical comparison highlighted by the Air Force. The J-3 Report now in buff provides for a DSTP study of methodology, including the points made by Kistiakowsky. At time of review of that report the JCS appropriately would consider the merits of reporting to the SECDEF the action taken on the Kistiakowsky report.

- The Employment Branch, Atomic Ops Div, recommends that the Chairman, JCS support the Army, Navy and Marine Corps position that consideration of sending any such memo to the SECDEF as is proposed by the Air Force be deferred until receipt of and consideration by the JCS of the DSTP comments on the entire Kistiakowsky report.

Approved by *K. Egan* Director, J-3

Opinion as to Recommendation:

Director, Joint Staff \_\_\_\_\_ (Concur) (Nonconcur)

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*by JCS*

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