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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

ECONOMIC WEAPON REQUIREMENTS STUDIES FOR 1959

Reference: J.C.S. 1823/256

1. At their meeting on 13 March 1956 the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the recommendations in paragraph 4 of the memorandum by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, in the Enclosure hereto.

2. The message in the Appendix was dispatched as JCS 399095, dated 15 March 1956, to the addressees indicated therein. The Joint Strategic Plans Committee was notified by SM-212-56, dated 15 March 1956, of the approval by the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the recommendations in subparagraphs 4 a and b.

RICHARD H. PHILLIPS,

R. D. WENTWORTH,

Joint Secretariat.

DECLASSIFIED BY:  
JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
DATE *9 May 1977*

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JCS 1823/262

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E N C L O S U R EMEMORANDUM BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. AIR FORCE

for the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

ATOMIC WEAPON REQUIREMENTS STUDIES FOR 1959

CSAFM 59-56

13 March 1956

1. I have reviewed DM-13-56, dated 9 March 1956, and the Enclosure thereto, and am unable to concur with the proposal that the commanders of unified commands be denied a postponement in the suspense date for compliance with SM-129-56.\*

2. The time allotted the commanders of unified commands for the preparation of their 1958 requirements studies was five months and later extended by one month because of insufficient time. The comprehensive nature and detail required of the commanders for their 1959 weapon requirements studies have been considerably expanded over that required in their 1958 studies. However, the time allotted to the commanders for the preparation of these studies is only two months. In addition to the task of preparing weapon requirements studies, the commanders have the task of preparing and coordinating their atomic annexes for submission to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by 30 September 1956. Much of the work required in the preparation of these annexes is directly related and duplicated in the guidelines transmitted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the commanders for the preparation of their 1959 weapon requirements studies. Since these actions are so closely inter-related, it would appear appropriate to accomplish the necessary coordination at the same time.

\* Enclosure "A" to J.C.S. 1823/256 with its Appendix and Annexes

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3. In view of the above and if the commanders' 1959 requirements studies are to be meaningful and serve their desired purpose, additional time should be granted their preparation. The July 1956 guidance to the Atomic Energy Commission does not necessarily require the inclusion of information derived from the 1959 weapon requirements studies, since the information derived from these studies can adequately be contained in the 1 January 1957 guidance to the Atomic Energy Commission. It is my understanding that the 1 January 1957 guidance to the Atomic Energy Commission can reflect appropriately any changes that might result from the analysis of the commanders' 1959 requirements studies without prejudice to the Atomic Energy Commission budgetary arrangements.

4. In view of the requests from CINCFE, CINCPAC, CINCSAC, CINCLANT, and CINCAL to extend the submission date of the 1959 weapon requirements studies to July 1956 and further in view of the above, it is recommended that:

a. The guidance to be submitted to the AEC on 1 July 1956 be limited to technical changes. These changes to be in keeping with the AEC estimates on their production capability.

b. The results of the analysis of the commanders' 1959 weapon requirements studies be incorporated as revisions for the 1958-1959 desired composition of the atomic stockpile on or about 1 September 1956.

c. The message in the Appendix hereto, be forwarded the commanders, informing them that the suspense date for compliance with SM-129-56 has been changed from 1 May 1956 to 1 July 1956.