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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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1 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL RADFORD

Subject: Dispersal of Atomic Weapons in the Bonin
and Volcano Islands

1. On 18 November 1955, the Secretary of State in response to a letter from the Secretary of Defense said he had no objection to the dispersal of a small number of atomic weapons to the Bonin and Volcano Islands. However, he went on to say that it is assumed that the storage of atomic weapons in the Islands would not prevent later resettlement of Bonin Island inhabitants, and then he further said that it was his understanding that the Department of State would be advised prior to the initial deployment of those weapons (Tab "A").

2. The Secretary of Defense passed this information on to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and said it was o.k. for the dispersal of weapons to the Islands subject to the reservation of the Secretary of State. He also indicated that prior notification to the Secretary of State was necessary (Tab "B").

3. Following receipt of this approval from the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff requested CINCPAC to make necessary arrangements for the early dispersal of atomic weapons to the Islands (Tab "C"). At the same time, the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff sent a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense requesting that the Secretary of State be advised of this initial deployment of atomic weapons to the Islands.

4. On 6 February 1956 the Chief of Naval Operations stated that one weapon with core was placed in storage on Chichi Jima (Tab D).

5. On 14 February 1956 ^{Dep Sec Def} ~~Robertson~~ Robertson expressed some concern that the weapons had been dispersed without adequate time for State to be notified and he asked that in the future they

2505-4716
 (H. James 57)

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*Particularly with regard
to areas other than the
Bonin - Volcano area*

be notified sufficiently in advance to coordinate the matter with
State. We are unable to find a record here that State was formally
notified that the weapons had been dispersed to the Bonin Islands
(Tab E).

*In JCS
files*

Very respectfully,

CHAIRMAN'S STAFF GROUP

*Directed CSC to investigate further in ISA and Dep Sec Def
offices. Copy of correspondence advising Sec State was found.
I have asked that copy be made available to Sec JCS for
completion of JCS record.*

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