

POLICY PLANNING STAFF
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October 17, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SMITH

Subject: Nuclear Storage in
Korea

1. At General Cutler's request his notes with respect to the storage of nuclear warheads in Korea (attached) were shown to the Secretary last evening.

2. The Secretary confirmed the substance of General Cutler's recollection as set forth in the last paragraph of the attached paper but stated that he would expect to be consulted on any specific recommendation made by Defense. Accordingly "and State" should be added at the end of the final sentence of General Cutler's notes.

3. General Cutler was notified of the foregoing by me late last evening.

William Leonhart

Attachment

As stated.

cc: FE - Mr. Robertson
S/S - Mr. Howe
S/AE - Mr. Farley

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My briefing notes of the June 13th meeting show that the President indicated that after agreement on modernizing U.S. forces in Korea "nuclear warheads might be stored as appropriate in Korea."

At the Council meeting on August 8, Paragraph 9-c was adopted:

"Equip U.S. forces in Korea with modern weapons; provided that the timing of the deployment to Korea of dual capability (nuclear-conventional) weapons, such as the HONEST JOHN and the 280 mm. cannon, and of nuclear warheads will be as and when determined by the President after conference with the Secretaries of State and Defense."

The notes of the discussion at that meeting show that Radford commented that there was no official authority to store nuclear warheads in South Korea as yet. The President then expressed surprise and said that he thought this problem had been agreed to when the NSC last discussed the Korean policy paper. I remarked that the Record of Action of NSC meetings would not contain any reference to the storage of nuclear warheads; as I understood it, this matter would be handled elsewhere (meaning ^{that} it was not customary to make a statement of that kind in the Record of Action).

At the meeting between Dulles and Quarles with reference to the cable to Dowling and Decker, it was merely stated that U.S. forces in Korea would be re-organized into Pentomic Divisions and the HONEST JOHN and 280 mm. gun would be introduced in Korea--as a bargaining point.

It is my best recollection that at least by the Council meeting on August 8 it was understood by the President, by the Secretary of State, and by Defense that nuclear warheads might be stored in Korea as appropriate. Presumably such storage would have to be specifically authorized by the President on the recommendation of Defense.

/s/ R.C.

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