

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

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Gardner
General Everest
General Eddleman

Subject: Atomic Weapon Requirements Studies for 1959.

1. By SM-129-56 (derived from JCS 1823/256) dated 15 February 1956, the Unified Commanders were directed to submit coordinated atomic weapon requirements studies for 1 July 1959 to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by 1 May 1956. In the same paper the Joint Chiefs of Staff decided to review the requirements studies and provide production guidance for 1 July 1958 and 1 July 1959 to the Atomic Energy Commission by 1 July 1956.

2. By R072200Z CINCSAC requested a change of suspense date for compliance with SM-129-56 to 1 July 1956. By FE 800705 dated 8 March 1956, CINCFE requested a change of the suspense date to 31 May 1956. It would appear likely that additional similar requests will be received from other Unified Commanders, particularly USCINCEUR in view of the extensive coordination required within his command.

3. In the opinion of the Deputy Director for Strategic Plans and the Rainbow Team, JSPG, the two-month time period from 1 May to 1 July 1956 allowed for the JCS and Secretary of Defense action referred to in paragraph 1 above, is not compressible, i.e., any postponement of the 1 May submission date would require a corresponding postponement of the 1 July 1956 submission date of the production guidance to the Atomic Energy Commission. This schedule is in accordance with firm Atomic Energy Commission - Department of Defense agreements based on established budget cycles and reflects commitments to both the Secretary of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission. Their informal recommendation is to disapprove all requests for postponement of the 1 May submission date.

4. I recommend that you approve the attached draft message to CINCSAC and CINCFE, with information copies to other commanders preparing the atomic weapon requirement studies for 1959.

[Signature]
L. MATHEWSON
Lt. General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

- Distribution:
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EXCLUDED FROM GDS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Authority XAD 943011

E N C L O S U R E

DRAFT MESSAGE

TO: Commander in Chief, Far East
Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command

INFO: Commander in Chief, Alaska
Commander in Chief, Atlantic
Commander in Chief, Caribbean
Commander in Chief, Continental Air Defense Command
Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command
Commander in Chief, U.S. Northeast Command
Commander in Chief, Pacific
Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern
Atlantic and Mediterranean

Reference SM-129-56 and CINCSAC R-072200Z (NOTAL)
and CINCFE 800705 (NOTAL) messages, postponement of suspense
date of 1 May 1956 is not approved. Commitments to the Secre-
tary of Defense and Atomic Energy Commission, based on estab-
lished budget cycles, require adherence to present schedule.