

**OUTGOIN TELEGRAM**

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Following consultations with Commonwealth members Sixteen April 23 and May 16 on Defense desire provide new weapons U. S. forces Korea Assistant Secretary Robertson met May 20 with representatives Turkish and Thai Embassies and separately with French Charge.

In presenting problem following points stressed:

1. Article 13(d) of Korean Armistice restricts replacement old equipment to piece-for-piece basis of same effectiveness and type.
2. Korean hostilities fought largely with World War II equipment much of which no longer in production or in use by U. S. forces elsewhere.
3. If defensive potential our forces in Korea not to deteriorate into impotency we must replace worn-out and obsolete items with types currently in use and in production.
4. Furthermore, U. S. ground forces currently being reorganized on world-wide scale into pentomic formations equipped with various types dual purpose weapons. Accordingly will become extremely difficult retain two U. S. divisions in Korea organized trained and equipped in outmoded and entirely different pattern.
5. While UNC forces deteriorating through equipment deficiencies Communist side over past three years in violation 13(d) Armistice has been

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FE - Walter S. Robertson

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FE - Mr. Jones

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MAY 20 1957 P.M.

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introducing latest and most modern types combat equipment including 625-plane air force of which half jets.

Defense representative then presented evidence Communist violations. In light above Defense desired authorize CINCUNC introduce certain new types equipment including several of dual capability.

With respect timing and presentation should we decide introduce these weapons Robertson said we were thinking of proceeding as follows:

1. No later July 1, 1957 Senior UNC Representative Military Armistice Commission would make statement Panmunjom reviewing Communist violations paragraph 13(d) Armistice Agreement, explaining problem posed by practical impossibility replacing worn-out UNC equipment with 1953 items and pointing out result has been development military imbalance. In view Communist violations 13(d) QUOTE UNC considers that it is entitled be relieved of corresponding obligations under provisions this paragraph until such time as relative military balance has been restored and Communist side by its actions has demonstrated willingness comply UNQUOTE. Statement would conclude with assurance UNC intends maintain Armistice, does not intend arms race and only purpose its action to restore relative military balance.

2. No later August 1, 1957 Unified Command would transmit report action taken and reasons to UN.

Robertson concluded by asking for views of governments concerned on problem and our proposed plans for proceeding.

Both Thai and Turkish representatives expressed understanding situation. Former observed emphasis should be on Communist violations x rather than production difficulties replacing old equipment. ~~Robertson's speech~~

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French expressed opinion world would understand U. S. action taken as response Communist violations but would want to be assured that U. S. not going beyond Communist actions as to character of items to be introduced. French indicated would obtain Government's reaction as soon as possible.

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