



**TOP SECRET**

November 1, 1957

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO: G - Mr. Murphy 1957 NOV 1 PM 5 45

FROM: S/AE - Philip J. Farley

SUBJECT: Deployment of Nuclear Weapons to U.S. Forces in Korea

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

The question of deployment of nuclear weapons to Korea for use by U.S. forces has been under consideration both in the National Security Council and in correspondence between the Departments of State and Defense. There is now some uncertainty as to whether the advice of the Secretary of State should be obtained before the President authorizes implementation of the agreed policy to introduce nuclear weapons into Korea. The Secretary has been consulted as to his understanding; as indicated in Mr. Leonhardt's memorandum (Tab B) the Secretary expects to be consulted on any specific recommendation made by Defense.

However, a letter from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Harr (Tab C) states the DOD view that further consultation with the Department of State is not necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION**

In order to clarify the situation it is recommended that you sign the attached letter (Tab A) to Assistant Secretary of Defense Sprague referring to the pertinent documents and directives and stating our understanding that the Secretary of State will be consulted on any specific recommendation to be made by Defense to the President regarding deployment of nuclear weapons to Korea.

**CONCURRENCES**

S/P - Mr. Smith

FE - Mr. Robertson

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S/AE: P. Farley:jd

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
S/P

Dear Mr. Sprague:

I should like to set forth in this letter my understanding of the present status of plans to deploy nuclear weapons to U.S. forces in Korea. You will recall that this subject was touched upon in my letter of May 6, 1957, to you, but only inconclusively since broad policy regarding Korea was at that time under consideration by the National Security Council. Subsequent Presidential and National Security Council directives have instituted measures to effect modernization of U.S. forces in Korea and to negotiate with the Korean Government a substantial reduction in Korean forces. Joint Defense-State Department instructions to our representatives in Korea have stated that movement of nuclear weapons and components to U.S. forces there will start after the Government of Korea has agreed to the proposed reductions in its forces.

The controlling directives also provide that "specific decision affecting deployment to Korea of nuclear weapons and nuclear warheads will be made by the President after conference with the Secretaries of State and Defense." In a memorandum dated October 18, 1957, from Deputy Assistant Secretary Karl G. Harr, Jr., to General Cutler, a copy of which was kindly forwarded to us, Mr. Harr stated the understanding of the Department of Defense that the routine implementation of established dispersal procedure in the case of Korea had been obviated by the NSC policy with respect to the over-all question of Korean modernization, and that the President and Secretary of State had agreed to permit the introduction of appropriate nuclear components there.

This is also our understanding with respect to the basic policy decision that nuclear components will be introduced. With respect to specific implementation, however, we understand that further Presidential authorization is required (as indicated in General Cutler's memorandum of October 16, 1957), and that the Secretaries of State and Defense should submit their appropriate recommendations to the President for that purpose. This procedure would, of course, permit review of any further considerations which might be pertinent at the time of implementation.

The Honorable  
Munfield B. Sprague,  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA).

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I should be grateful if you could confirm that this understanding is similar to yours, or, alternately, if you could inform me of your view.

**Sincerely yours,**

**ROBERT MURPHY**

**Robert Murphy  
Deputy Under Secretary**

**cc: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Staff  
White House - General Galtier  
General Loper, Assistant to Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy)  
C - Mr. Murphy  
S/P - Mr. Smith  
FE - Mr. Robertson**

**S/AE:R/Courtney:jd**

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the signed copy  
by [signature]

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