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AFXPD-DD/Col. Yudkin/bmh/75424/10 Jun 60

10 JUN 1960

Honorable Thomas S. Gates, Jr.  
The Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. Secretary

When we talked on 25 May 1960, I cited two areas of Service controversy on which I hold strong views and which were the basis for my requesting an interview. In an effort to be helpful, I offered some suggestions which are outlined herewith.

In respect to control and operation of space systems, I believe that since the issue has again been raised, it is necessary that the decision previously made on this issue be affirmed. In effect, this would restate that a separate organization to command and employ space systems is not to be established. Since the 18 September directive refers specifically to departmental interests, it would be helpful were your decision to provide for the exercise of appropriate operational authority by the unified or specified commanders responsible for the functional area concerned.

As you know, I continue to believe that the optimum solution of the problem of control and employment of strategic forces lies in the organization of a United States Strategic Command, this to include Navy (Polaris equipped vessels) and Air Force (SAC) component commands. Recognizing that a lesser solution may be called for, designating CINCSAC the Strategic Targeting Authority, as amplified in the attached outline, would eliminate much of the ineffectiveness of the present coordination system and would accomplish many of the objectives associated with establishment of the United States Strategic Command.

Sincerely

Signed  
THOMAS D. WHITE  
Chief of Staff

- 2 Atchs
- 1. Outline - Orgn and Asgmt of Resp for Space Systems
- 2. Outline - Strategic Targeting Authority

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Col Yudkin's Chron  
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6-15

STRATEGIC TARGETING AUTHORITY

Purpose of Targeting Authority - provides a basis for:

- An effective, fully integrated and mutually supporting strategic operational plan for general war.
- Achieving optimum distribution of atomic weapons across the national strategic target list.

Essential Elements of Targeting Authority -

- Definition - The commander empowered to exercise jurisdiction over strategic targeting, strike timing and force application for all U.S. atomic forces committed to the strategic offensive in general war.
- Directive to produce a national strategic target list (NSTL) which
  - Reflects JCS guidance.
  - Documents installations and complexes which constitute a measure of strategic significance.
  - Documents specific strategic targets as destruction objectives for use in preparing operational plan.
- Directive to produce a single integrated operational plan, which
  - Determines specific DGZ's and targets to be attacked by atomic capable forces identified by commanders as having 24 hour/day capability.
  - Includes target assignments which maximize destruction of target list (NSTL).
  - Determines and programs weight of effort.
  - Establishes strike timing (TOT) based on common H-hour.
  - Establishes readiness conditions.

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JCS will review and approve the NSTL and the single integrated operational plan.

Required JCS guidance to targeting authority

- Overall strategy issued through the basic war plan.

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- Policy guidance for categories of targets to be included on NSTL.

- Definition of NSTL

"A list of specific vital enemy targets, programmed for attack through the air (including space), which constitute the primary source of strength that could be used by the enemy to project devastating blows against the United States and its allies. Destruction or neutralization of these targets would either destroy the will and ability of the enemy to wage war or provide a relative advantage sufficient to assure victory for the United States and its allies.

Its categories include (in order of priority):

- (1) Enemy nuclear delivery capability and its critical supporting elements.
- (2) Governmental and military control centers.
- (3) Enemy war sustaining resources, including urban industrial areas."

- General damage criteria.

- Constraints policy.

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