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MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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PRIORITY

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain class'n. Change/classify to _____
 Declassify with concurrence of USCIB

after _____

EO 12958, 25X

IPS/CR/IR by SPK

Date: 5/27/97

FROM: CHMAAG GERMANY

TO : OSD WASH DC

NR : MGCH 8-551

111301Z SEP 62

FOR ISA FOR GENERAL EATON

This Message in Two Parts.

Part 1.

(S) Following required position paper is provided in draft for clearance and any additional data feasible in anticipation of question very likely to be raised by MOD Strauss with Secretary Gilpatric this week. "Availability of nuclear warheads held by US for FRG. (S)

(S) (Anticipated Strauss question) MOD Strauss may repeat his question as to the numbers, types and locations of warheads the US has in its custody for the FRG. He is not so much interested in specifics as to actual location but as to their availability in Europe, nor as to their real numbers, but as to the approximate quantities or percentages available.

(TS) (Recommended US response) You will recall that on 5 May 1962, at Athens, Greece, Mr McNamara pointed out (see tab S, Gilpatric politico-military papers, top page 2) that ".... We have stored in Western Europe today 5,000 nuclear warheads, tactical nuclear warheads. It is certainly our intention, subject to the desires of the alliance, to keep them there in the future." "The number of nuclear capable delivery weapons either delivered or already ordered for delivery to the FRG represent a large percentage of the total for all European NATO countries, as required in the agreed NATO goals. In most circumstances, it is expected that the division of existing nuclear devices would be in proportion to the delivery weapons available. "However, rather than mark each nuclear device for each specific missile or aircraft, effective utilization will call for employment in relation to the threat. In this respect, the forces of the FRG in most circumstances would have warhead requirements in relation to their percentage of the total delivery weapons available in Europe, and would receive at least a like proportion of the related nuclear devices available."

DA IN. 262967

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Part II.

(S) It is assumed that certain general information with reference to warheads in US custody for the FRG may already have been given to the FRG. If this assumption correct, request substance of what might be mentioned to MOD Strauss in order to be more forthcoming should matter be raised as now expected. Request response to Bonn by Thursday 13 September.

NOTE: Received without reclassification code.

ACTION: OSD

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FOISG: Burr, William

German nuclear issue



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**The U.S. Nuclear Presence in Western Europe,
1954-1962, Part II**

2020-09-17