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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

11-6

30 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

During September and October, I sent to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for their review, draft memoranda to the President outlining the military force structure which I proposed for incorporation in the FY 65 Defense Budget. I have now completed my review of the Chiefs' comments on my proposals. At Tab A are tables summarizing my final force structure recommendations. At Tab B is a summary of my initial proposals, the comments of the Chiefs on these proposals, and the changes which I made in the light of their advice.

I believe that in every major respect the proposed force structure reflects the views of the majority of the Chiefs. Therefore I should like to include a statement similar to the following in the letter by which I transmit the FY 65 Budget to the President:

"In developing the program and reviewing the budget proposals, I have had the continuing counsel and assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Although the force structure does not include all the forces recommended by each of the Services, the Joint Chiefs of Staff agree that the program supported by this budget will further increase our combat effectiveness and will provide, in a high state of readiness, the forces which we require for defense of the vital interests of the United States."

Would it be possible for you to let me know by December 5 whether such a statement is agreeable to the Chiefs?

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Robert S. McNamara
Robert S. McNamara

2 Attachments

cc: C/S, Army
CNO
C/S, AF
CMC
Sec Army
Sec Navy
Sec AF

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Tab B

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Summary of JCS Recommendations on the Draft Presidential Memoranda and Related Secretary of Defense Actions

Draft versions of the memoranda for the President, outlining the force recommendations of the Secretary of Defense, were sent to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their review. This paper summarizes very briefly the recommendations of the Chiefs on the principal issues involved and indicates, as well, those changes adopted by the Secretary of Defense relative to these issues.

Strategic Retaliatory Forces

The key recommendations of the Secretary of Defense for the FY 1965 budget were:

1. Authorization, in FY 1965, of an increase in the total Minuteman force level of 50 missiles (to 1,000).
2. Authorization, in FY 1965, of the retrofit of 400 of the 300 missiles in the first five Minuteman Wings with the Improved Minuteman.
3. Deactivation of 27 Atlas "D" ICBM's in FY 1965 instead of FY 1968; deactivation of 27 Atlas "E" ICBM's in FY 1967; and deactivation of 54 Titan I ICBM's in FY 1968.
4. Disapproval of the recommendation of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force for procurement of 355 additional Hound Dog missiles at a cost of \$368 million.
5. Approval of the expenditure in FY 1965 of \$8 million for the study of an advanced manned strategic aircraft system.

The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff, Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps all concurred with these recommendations and with all of the Strategic Retaliatory forces recommended by the Secretary of Defense.

The Chief of Staff, Air Force reaffirmed his earlier recommendations for:

1. Procurement of 355 Hound Dog missiles.
2. Building to a force of 1,950 Minutemen by FY 1969 at a cost, over the program recommended by the Secretary of Defense, of approximately \$5 billion.

He also recommended inclusion of \$78 million in the FY 1965 budget for development of a new manned strategic bomber. This recommendation was not reviewed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was not approved by the Secretary of Defense.

Continental Air and Missile Defense

1. The draft memorandums reviewed by the Chiefs recommended phase down from 629 active interceptors at end FY 1964 to 456 by end FY 1969. The Chiefs recommended against any reduction until a new interceptor could be deployed. The Secretary of Defense changed his recommendation to maintenance of the FY 1964 force adjusted for attrition.

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2. The draft reviewed by the Chiefs recommended phase down of the Air National Guard interceptor forces from a total of 31 squadrons with 593 aircraft at end FY 1964 to 12 squadrons with 300 aircraft (of which 210 would be F-102) by end FY 1969. The Chiefs recommended a 22 squadron force equipped with modern aircraft. The Secretary of Defense changed his recommendation to a 22 squadron force of 350 interceptors by end FY 1969 (of which 350 would be F-102's).

3. The draft memorandum reviewed by the Chiefs recommended siting 27 Nike Hercules batteries and deployment of 47 Hawk platoons for defense of selected hardened command centers and missile sites. The Chiefs recommended provision of funds for siting 22 Nike Hercules batteries in FY 1965, but deferment of decision on siting pending further study. The Secretary accepted the Chiefs' recommendation.

4. The draft memorandum reviewed by the Chiefs recommended phase down of 3 SAGE direction centers (from 15 to 12) and 5 prime radars, 19 height finder radars, and 52 gap fillers in FY 1965. The Chiefs recommended against these reductions and the Secretary accepted these recommendations.

5. The draft memorandum reviewed by the Chiefs recommended deferring any major improvements to the air defense forces pending a decision to undertake the complementary civil defense programs and to deploy a ballistic missile defense. The Chiefs recommended that the FY 1965 budget should include sufficient funds for advanced interceptor development. The Secretary has provided, in the FY 1965 budget, continuation of development work on advanced interceptor aircraft.

Army and Marine Corps General Purpose Forces

The Secretary of Defense recommended the retention of a 16-division Army force level and a 3 Division/Wing Team force for the Marine Corps. All of the Joint Chiefs concurred in this proposal except the Chief of Staff, Army who recommended an 18-division Army force.

Navy -- Attack Carrier Forces

The Secretary of Defense recommended that the present strength of 15 attack carriers be maintained until 1970, at which time it would be cut to 14 with a further reduction to 13 in 1972. He originally proposed that, the new carrier, planned for authorization in FY 1965 be postponed until FY 1969; however, because the majority of the Chiefs proposed that the carrier be constructed in FY 1967, he accepted their recommendation.

As can be seen from the following tables, both of the Secretary's proposals are supported by the majority of the Chiefs:

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	<u>CVA Forces</u>							
	<u>FY 65</u>	<u>FY 66</u>	<u>FY 67</u>	<u>FY 68</u>	<u>FY 69</u>	<u>FY 70</u>	<u>FY 71</u>	<u>FY 72</u>
SecDef Recommendation	15	15	15	15	15	14	14	13
CJCS Recommendation	15	15	15	15	15	14	14	13
C/S Army Recommendation	15	15	15	14	14	13	-	-
CNO & C/MC Reccom.	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
C/S AF Recommendation	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	-

CVA New Construction

	<u>FY 65</u>	<u>FY 66</u>	<u>FY 67</u>	<u>FY 68</u>	<u>FY 69</u>	<u>FY 70</u>
Sec Def: Orig. Recon.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Final Recon.	-	-	1	-	-	1
CJCS Recommendation	-	-	1	-	-	-
CS Army Recommendation	-	-	1	-	-	1
CNO & C/MC Recommendation	-	-	1	-	-	1
C/S AF Recommendation	-	-	-	-	-	-

Navy -- ASW

Submarines. The draft of the Presidential Memorandum, sent to the Secretary of the Navy and to the CNO for review in September, provided for the procurement of 4 SSN's each year in FY 1965-69, and an ultimate force level of 102 SS/SSN's. As a result of the suggestions of the Secretary of the Navy and the CNO, the version of the draft, upon which the JCS commented, provided 6 new SSN's each year in FY 1965-69 and a level-off force of 102 SS/SSN's. All of the JCS recommended a level-off force of 105 SS/SSN's and a procurement program of 9 SSN's in FY 1965 -- except for the CJCS who recommended only 7 in FY 1965. The Secretary of Defense decided to retain the program of 6 new SSN's each year in FY 1965-69, but accepted the CJCS's recommendation to retain 2 additional SS's in FY 1969 thereby raising the force total to 104 SS/SSN's.

Escort Vessels. The preliminary draft of the Presidential Memorandum, sent to the Secretary of the Navy and to the CNO for review in September, provided 8 DE's in FY 1965 and an FY 1965-69 total of 93. As a result of Navy comments this was raised in the version of the draft, upon which the JCS commented, to 16 in FY 1965 and a FY 1965-69 total of 91. The CJCS and C/S Army concurred in the force levels and procurement program proposed by the Secretary of Defense; the CNO and C/MC recommended that 25 DE's be procured per year; and C/S AF recommended that only 8 DE's be procured in FY 1965 and that total procurement in FY 1965-69 not exceed 54.

ASW Carriers. The CJCS concurred in the Secretary of Defense's recommended force level of 9 CVS's, whereas C/S Army, CNO, C/MC, and C/S Air Force recommended increasing it to 10 in fiscal years 1969 and 1970. Only the CNO supported construction of a new CVS in FY 1968. The Secretary's final recommendation retained the force level originally proposed, but deleted the CVS planned for construction in FY 1968.

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