



SECRET

Weisbaden
3:30 p.m. May 26, 1964

USAFE

The meeting at USAFE opened with a standard briefing covering the command mission, organization, forces (offensive, defensive, reconnaissance and airlift), personnel, facilities, nuclear strike program and command and control procedures.

General Disosway closed the formal portion of the briefing by stating that the major problems he was faced with in preparing for combat were the lack of adequate air defense ground control environment, clear, rapid, and effective nuclear release procedures, the lack of geographic area for aircraft dispersal, and the lack of hardening. Mr. Johnson referred to command and control procedures, pointing out that the outline procedures for going to general nuclear war can be relatively simple; i.e., the U.S. and the government of the nation where the U.S. forces are stationed, in consultation with the U.K., can in fact make such a decision. The real problem lies in the understandable reluctance of responsible officials to take a decision to agree to a general release of nuclear weapons. General Disosway responded that if USAFE remains in a conventional posture its entire strike force is jeopardized in the absence of dispersal and hardening. He added that his strike program was complicated by the fact that the Army continues to provide SHAPE with targets for air strikes while the Air Force believes that the enemy Air Order of Battle should be the first priority target. USAFE is attempting to put this position across to General Lemnitzer.

Colonel Gibbons (USAF Director of Intelligence) said that USAFE did not have any evidence that the Soviets were thinking in terms of a conventional war. USAFE believes that the Soviets have about 2,000 fighters plus 300 MRBM's which can be thrown against the USAFE area. He noted that USAFE believes that MMRBMs, assisted by the F-111, are

the

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NMD59307By WJ NARA Date 6/19/82SECRET

-2-

the answer to this threat. Mr. Johnson asked how USAFE planned to deploy the F-111 and General Disosway replied that it would have to be kept out of MRBM range, perhaps even in the ZI. He emphasized that deployment of aircraft, particularly the F-111, for close air support is extremely dangerous. General Disosway remarked that the Germans now have the G-91 and are unable to find any real use for it. However, the Army continues to press for the availability of a fighter along the lines of the G-91. General Disosway said that the characteristics of a true vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, under the present state of the art, would be such that the plane could carry only limited bomb loads.

General Disosway then turned to the subject of Wheelus Air Base and stated that if we lose the base USAFE training will suffer badly. The immediately available alternative bombing and gunnery ranges in the U.K., France, Sardinia and Sicily are all overused now, not fully equipped and are not all-weather in nature. Spain is a possibility, but the acquisition of sufficient land is a problem as are the NATO implications. Any gunnery and bombing range must be within 100 miles of an airfield if the aircraft are to have sufficient time in the target area to permit effective training. The aircraft cannot be sent back to the ZI for this training although the pilots could be sent back to train in the U.S. However, this would not permit a proper checkout of the weapons systems installed in the aircraft in Europe.

Mr. Johnson said the importance of Wheelus is well known and accepted and that we have made some progress in quieting Nasser down. He added that Nasser is our main problem and our ace in the hole. The King of Libya will probably wake up to the fact that if Nasser gains his objective of getting the U.S. out of Wheelus, his next goal will be the elimination of the King. General Montgomery said that if we permit a cold abrogation of the treaty by the Libyans, we are opening the door for similar world-wide action against us (Philippines, Guantanamo Bay, etc.).

Mr. Johnson

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NMD 51307
By h311 NARA Date 6/19/86SECRET

-3-

Mr. Johnson turned to the question of USAFE capability to penetrate the Satellite area. General Allison said that the strike force will be screened by ECM jammers of the RB-66 force. In addition, the F-4 will have its own ECM pod and be able to provide its own protection. General Disosway pointed out that the East German radar net was quite good and extensive while the West German net has only 2 heavy radars and these are not compatible with French and other radars. He emphasized the necessity to get on with the NATO Air Defense Ground Environment (NADGE) system and indicated that he felt NATO should fund the measures necessary to insure compatibility among the various radar systems in the NATO area.

Mr. Johnson asked about USAFE maintenance of Special Atomic Storage (SAS) sites and General Disosway said that USAFE maintains 28 of these facilities with site manning levels varying from 55 to 105 officers and airmen. The conversation then turned back to the subject of conventional versus nuclear war. General Disosway reverted to the problem of nuclear release authority and Mr. Johnson said that the release of nuclear bombs by aircraft is more provocative than use of gun projectiles or ADM's. He said that he saw 3 steps or phases in the use of nuclear weapons in rising order of the level of provocation (1) employment of ADM's air defense and ASW weapons (2) employment of nuclear war heads by short range missiles such as Sergeant and Pershing, and (3) air delivered nuclear bombs. General Disosway hit hard upon the survival necessity to maintain nuclear armed aircraft on alert status in view of the proximity of his bases to the border. He said that his only all-weather strike weapons were the MACE and the F-105. His obvious concern was over the existence of the 300 Soviet MRBMs and he concentrated on it by stating that the side that hits first will win and that USAFE could not win a conventional war under present or projected circumstances. General Disosway referred directly and indirectly to the Soviet MRBM's throughout the discussion and the threat they posed to USAFE, particularly in view of the fact that effective attacks on them would require the release of SAC against them.

General Disosway

DECLASSIFIED

Authority WM 59307By b3D NARA Date 6/19/86SECRET

-4-

General Disosway touched on the border violation problem and noted that strict procedures were in effect but pointed out that the geographic area was small. He referred to continuing brief border violations by Soviet/Satellite aircraft and indicated that the Danes had forced down a Soviet commercial airliner which was wandering over Western Europe.

SECRET