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AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXPENDITURE
OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. It is the policy of the United States to integrate nuclear weapons with other weapons in the arsenal of the United States. Nuclear weapons will be used ~~(as authorized by the President, Note 1)~~ in general war and in military operations short of general war, ~~(as authorized by the President, Note 2)~~. Such authorization as may be given in advance will be determined by the President.

2. Pursuant thereto, I hereby authorize the Armed Forces of the United States to expend nuclear weapons in the following circumstances, in conformity with implementing instructions issued in accordance with paragraph 3 hereof, ^{when} ~~and if~~ the operational commander to whom appropriate authority has been delegated is unable to obtain a decision by the President, ~~Note 1~~; ~~when~~ in the judgment of the operational commander to whom appropriate authority has been delegated time and circumstances do not permit a decision by the President, ~~Note 2~~ or other person authorized by law to act in his stead.

a. For the defense of the United States, its Territories and possessions:

~~Note 1: State language.~~
~~Note 2: Defense language.~~

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(1) In the United States, its Territories and possessions, and in coastal air defense identification zones, against attack by air;

(2) In the United States, its Territories and possessions, and in international waters adjacent thereto as defined in the implementing instructions referred to herein, against attack by sea;

(3) In the territory of friendly foreign countries near the United States, its Territories and possessions, subject to the consent of the country sovereign over the territory involved, against attack by air.

b. For the defense of United States forces in foreign territory in the event of ~~[nuclear]~~ ^{*} ~~Note 1~~ ^{by forces of the Sino-Soviet Bloc} attack on these forces ~~(by forces of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, subject, in the case of attack without nuclear weapons, to existing and future understandings with the countries concerned, Note 2).~~ (3)

c. For the defense of United States forces in international waters against Sino-Soviet Bloc attacking forces;

* ~~Note 1~~ State language.
Note 2: ~~Defense language.~~

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d. In retaliation for nuclear attack upon the Continental United States subject, in the case of retaliation from friendly foreign territory, to existing or future agreements or understandings with the country or countries concerned.

3. The foregoing authorizations will come into effect when implementing instructions relative to the defensive and retaliatory uses specified herein have been worked out by the Department of Defense with the concurrence of the Department of State, ~~Note 1~~; subject to the concurrence of the Department of State in such rules as apply to areas outside the sovereign boundaries of the United States, its Territories and possessions, ~~Note 2~~; and have been submitted to the President.

4. The following definitions, operational limitations and procedures for implementation apply to the authorization contained in paragraph 2 above and will be included in the implementing instructions:

a. Definitions:

(1) The term, "United States, its Territories and possessions," includes the Canal Zone.

~~Note 1: State language.~~

~~Note 2: Defense language.~~

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(2) "U.S. forces" refers to those major organized units of U.S. military forces comprising the essential operational military strength of the United States, including the numbered field armies, fleets, and air forces.

(3) "Attack" refers to a major hostile assault or attack of such magnitude and against such areas or forces as to constitute an immediate and vital military threat to the security of the United States or to the major U.S. forces. |

b. Operational limitations:

Nuclear weapons will not be expended for defense against minor attack nor against attack upon minor United States forces wherein damage inflicted would not constitute an immediate and vital military threat to the security of the United States or to the major U.S. forces. [Any use of nuclear weapons pursuant to this authorization will be limited to such size and numbers of weapons and to such military targets as are necessary.]*

~~Note 1)~~. An operational commander using nuclear weapons pursuant to this authorization shall immediately report his action to the President.

* ~~Note 1)~~ State language.

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c. Procedures for implementation:

The Joint Chiefs of Staff will effect operational implementation of this authorization. The implementation of this authorization by appropriate commanders of commands established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be directed in accordance with their assigned missions, tasks and forces, and will be extended where necessary and appropriate to the level, but not below that, of the commanders of numbered field armies, fleets, and air forces.

5. The authorization contained herein will be reviewed at such times as may be necessary to insure consistency with Basic National Security Policy or as may be requested by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense.

6. Until superseded by the coming into effect of this authorization pursuant to paragraph 3 above, the "Authorization for the Expenditure of Atomic Weapons in Air Defense," approved by me on April 18, 1956, will remain in effect.

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