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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Permissive Link for MINUTEMAN

In a reply dated 24 May to JCS recommendations on the installation of permissive link devices on nuclear weapons, the Deputy Secretary of Defense urged that an extended program beyond that addressed by the JCS in their memorandum be considered, and mentioned specifically for consideration those weapons based on, or intended for deployment to, non-U. S. sovereign territory, and those in which an individual possesses the capability of delivering (or firing) an armed nuclear weapon. The general philosophy of studying and applying on a continuing basis adequate command and control equipment and procedures to each nuclear weapon system prior to its becoming operational was further specified.

Although MINUTEMAN is not included in the specific criteria outlined above, it does fall within the more general criteria -- that of studying command and control equipment for each nuclear weapon system prior to deployment.

In his memorandum dated 25 June 1963, the Director of Defense Research and Engineering requested a report on the feasibility of applying a PAL to MINUTEMAN, and stated such a report would serve as a basis for a policy recommendation to the Secretary of Defense on the ultimate application of such a device to MINUTEMAN. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Research and Development) has indicated, by August 2 letter, that the Air Force has deferred action pending further resolution.

It is the purpose of this memorandum to point out that these memoranda are consistent, that action as requested by DERA&E should proceed. No decision will be made on applying a PAL to MINUTEMAN until the results of the report requested have been adequately considered, but the study and preliminary development on a MINUTEMAN PAL, for which \$5 M in Emergency Funds were made available in June should proceed. This will give me and the President the capability to make a decision at an early date on this question.

ROBERT C. McMINN

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