

14 December 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director/Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Attendance at Nuclear Weapons Orientation
Advanced Course, 7 - 11 December 1959

1. This report covers the attendance of the undersigned at the Nuclear Weapons Orientation Advanced Course, Class Number 150, given from 7 to 11 December 1959, by the Headquarters Field Command, Defense Atomic Support Agency, Sandia Base, New Mexico.

2. This course, in my judgment, was very well handled. The instructors, drawn from all four services, were both substantively competent and good public speakers. The course pattern was as follows:

- a. Fission and fusion principles; warheads and weapons.
- b. Blast, thermal and radiation effects; worldwide considerations.
- c. Target analysis and operational considerations.
- d. U.S. aerial and missile delivery capabilities (including trips to USAF and US Navy installations); estimated USSR capabilities.
- e. Air defense, nuclear power, nuclear materials production, U.S. nuclear organization, costs and new developments.
- f. Medical aspects, accidents and safety.
- g. Planning impact.

3. The military personnel at Sandia base were most cooperative. The quarters furnished were comfortable, the food good, and the service excellent. Further, because Sandia is relatively isolated and the joys of Albuquerque are not exactly

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distracting, there was ample opportunity to mix with the other students attending the course, who are mostly military officers.

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4. Mr. [REDACTED] DAD/CI, who also attended the course, was told by one of the staff that they thought it would be helpful if a CIA person were to give the 45 minute lecture on Foreign (Soviet) capabilities. The material is now taken directly from the pertinent National Intelligence Estimates, and is presented without comment. I did not discuss this possibility with the instruction staff.

5. No commitments were made, and no difficulties encountered. My only recommendation is that as many senior ORR people as possible avail themselves of the opportunity to take the WCA course.

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Distribution

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OCh/E/RR: [REDACTED] /dbw/8845 (14 Dec. 59)