

SECRET

COPY

September 7, 1956

Honorable Charles E. Wilson  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You will recall that President Eisenhower's letter of 1 March 1956 to Chairman Bulganin expressed the belief that disarmament should be sought primarily, though not exclusively, in terms of limitation on armaments rather than on men. You will also recall that the United Kingdom, motivated by the same general reasoning, advanced for our consideration a plan for establishing allowed levels of conventional armaments based on manpower ceilings.

Your letter of 11 May 1956, commenting on the UK plan stated it would be desirable for the UK to introduce its plan at that time. It further stated that the subject was under review within the Department of Defense.

NSC Action No. 1513-c authorized me to explore and submit a report to the Council on the feasibility of measures for the reduction of major types of armaments, especially those capable of delivering nuclear weapons, in respects where inspection is shown to be effective. In carrying out this task, it will be necessary to devise a means of establishing allowed levels of armaments. It is further noted that the Annex to NSC Action No. 1513 refers to an illustrative manpower ceiling as a basis for measurement for reductions of armaments and military expenditures.

It is therefore requested that you develop and inform me as soon as possible of measures which you find feasible for establishing the relationship between levels of manpower and armaments. In the event you conclude that there are no satisfactory methods for establishing such a relationship, I should like to have your recommendations for any other method of arriving at armaments levels to be allowed under a comprehensive disarmament system.

As you know, the necessity of consultations with the Western members of the UN Subcommittee in advance of the UN General Assembly imposes a time problem, and therefore I would appreciate your estimate of the date on which a reply may reasonably be expected.

Yours sincerely,

State Dept. review completed

Harold E. Stassen

SECRET

Executive Registry  
8.6.353

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1956

SECRET (when with attachment)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

At Mr. Stassen's request, I am forwarding for your information a copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of Defense on September 7, regarding the relationship between levels of manpower and armaments.

*Joseph S. Toner*  
Joseph S. Toner  
Executive Secretary  
Disarmament Staff

Attachment

*[Handwritten mark]*

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *White House*)

2957

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION FOR THIS FORM

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP**

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	General Truscott	<i>Noted by Gen Truscott</i>	
2	<i>ER - for file</i>	<i>sts</i>	<i>10/1/66</i>
3			
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<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
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<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Acting Director <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>10/9/13</i>