

WMB

GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR

BRIEFING OF

NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Wednesday, 8 February 1956 - Room 2E-859 - 10:30 a.m.

(1 carbon copy of General Taylor's remarks, only)



Gen Taylor

I have had the record copy of this meeting⁶ altered as indicated by my pencilled changes.

GEN. TAYLOR: I am happy to welcome you to my office this morning and have a chance to chat with you for a moment--unfortunately a brief moment--about the Army and some of the activities in which I think you have an interest. (Interpreted)

I might remind you at the outset that we have an army of a little over a million men composed of nineteen divisions. Five of these divisions are in Europe and are part of General McAuliffe's force. Three divisions are in the Far East, two in Korea, and one in Japan. (Interpreted)

I might remind you that we are a mixture of a professional army and a conscript army. About 60% of our soldiers are professional, about 40% conscript. (Interpreted)

About 40% of the strength of our Army is overseas, about 60% here in the United States. In the United States we have a force of nine divisions in varying states of readiness for deployment about the world. (Interpreted)

Some of these are in a condition of instant readiness for use; others will need some additional time to make them ready. (Interpreted)

There is a strategic central reserve. We would use these forces for overseas deployment or to go to any threatened part where the policy of the United States indicated need of a military force. (Interpreted)

Of course, in addition to these tactical forces of the United States, we have our training base where we train our recruits. We have also our mobilization base where we have our factories, some directly controlled by the Army, others contracted with industry, and behind that, of course, are all the necessary resources of the United States. (Interpreted)

~~To the antiaircraft,~~ To the air defense of the United States, the Army contributes a number of antiaircraft battalions which work operationally under our Air Force, under General Partridge, who has his headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Interpreted)

We are progressively converting our antiaircraft artillery from the so-called conventional gun type of World War II to the ~~XXXX~~ which I believe you have visited, have you not?

(Defense Minister Hils Handal nodding)

(Interpreted)

We consider ~~XXXX~~ a promising weapon, really the first of a family which we hope will progressively become more effective.

(Interpreted)

So much for the composition and general disposition of our Army. I would like to talk a little bit about its roles and missions, how I think it is related to the interests of lives ^{our allies} around the world. (Interpreted)

Obviously our overseas deployment in Europe, in the Far East, are right up against the Communist threat and are prepared to

discharge their part in the common job of resisting any aggression in the areas in which these forces stand guard. (Interpreted)

Behind these forces, as I say, we have a substantial strength in the United States for which we are trying to get great mobility largely based on aircraft transport so that those forces are potentially able to contribute to the overseas missions. (Interpreted)

Now, of course, in many countries outside of Europe and Korea and Japan where we have tactical forces we have large numbers of military missions engaged generally speaking in assisting our friends and Allies to defend themselves or in the matter of self defense. (Interpreted)

In some countries we are very directly engaged in training and developing indigenous strengths, for example, in Korea, where we have created a battlefield, an army of 660,000 troops. (Interpreted)

Now the opposite extreme would be, of course, our missions in some NATO countries where our role is really one of providing technical advice in the handling of American equipment. (Interpreted)

But I don't think the extent of our work in this field is really understood because, for example, ~~we are~~, the American Army is assisting directly or indirectly in the training of over 200 divisions in some ⁴⁶ 36 countries. (Interpreted)

I stress this with my own countrymen because it does emphasize, it seems to me, the extent of the cooperative effort

effort of many countries to develop our strength against possible future aggression. (Interpreted)

In summary, we say that the role of the Army, as I view it here, is really two-fold. (Interpreted)

It is essentially a deterrent. Our objective is not to fight wars; our objective is to keep wars from happening. In everything we do we try to realize the deterrent aspect of our mission. (Interpreted)

We think we are contributing to the deterrence of war by our overseas deployments where American soldiers along the Iron Curtain, in Germany, along the Bamboo Curtain, in Korea, indicate to the Communist, if he moves forward, he is going to meet our American soldiers, ~~come up against our American soldiers.~~ (Interpreted)

We think and certainly hope we are contributing to deterrence by our work in other countries, which I described, in developing morale, feelings of confidence, and the feeling that the United States is going to support ^{them} in case of crisis. (Interpreted)

After placing this emphasis on our deterrent missions then obviously we also have to be ready to fight in case the deterrent fails--fight both in the case of a small war, a Korea type of thing, or in case of general hostilities which would involve Europe. (Interpreted)

As a result we have today the largest ready force under arms the United States has ever maintained in time of peace and one which I think and hope will be able to discharge the movements which I have described. (Interpreted)

With that I would be happy to answer your questions, or discuss any phase. ^{of my comments.} (Interpreted) (No questions)

It seems you are very easily satisfied. (Interpreted)

I remember one of my professors in the Staff College asked one of the classes one morning, "Why don't you ask me some questions?" Nobody said anything. After we went out the door we said, "Well, he tells us all he knows." (Interpreted) (Laughter)

I know your tight schedule. I want to express my thanks to you for bringing your colleagues here and listening to me for this brief dissertation. I also admire your translator as well.

. . . The briefing in General Taylor's office was concluded at 10:55 a. m. . .