

REMARKS BY
GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY
TO THE ARMY SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA
WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 1956

GENTLEMEN, I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY
PANEL. I KNOW OF NO GROUP WHOSE ADVICE IS MORE
VALUABLE IN ASSISTING THE ARMY TO REACH ITS LONG-RANGE
OBJECTIVES.

THIS MEETING IS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO ME,
BECAUSE FORT BRAGG IS THE FIRST MILITARY INSTALLATION TO
BE VISITED BY THIS GROUP SINCE THE PANEL'S INCEPTION IN
1951. I FEEL THAT THERE IS SOME EXTRA VALUE IN CONDUCTING
THIS MEETING IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF AN ARMY POST. IN THIS
WAY, THE PANEL MEMBERS CAN OBTAIN FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS
AND INFORMATION ON ARMY PROBLEMS. OPPORTUNITIES CAN
BE PROVIDED FOR THE ARMY TO PRESENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND

DISCUSSIONS OF THE LATEST TECHNIQUES FOR THE EMPLOYMENT
OF TROOPS WHO WILL, IN TURN, EMPLOY THE LATEST WEAPONS
SYSTEMS AND OTHER ADVANCES WHICH YOU RECOMMEND.

SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING CHIEF OF STAFF, I SPOKE TO
THE KEY OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS IN THE ARMY STAFF. I
STRESSED THEN A CONVICTION I HAVE HELD FOR YEARS THAT WE
MUST DEVELOP MORE SUCCESSFUL METHODS TO DETERMINE
EARLY IN HIS CAREER THE FORWARD THINKER AND TO GUIDE HIS
CAREER SO THAT HE REACHES A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY
EARLY ENOUGH TO INFLUENCE OUR PLANNING AND WEAPONS
SYSTEMS. FOR IT IS NO LONGER MERELY DESIRABLE TO PROJECT
OUR THINKING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE INTO THE FUTURE; IT HAS
BECOME ESSENTIAL.

THE EFFECTS OF ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY BECOME
MORE PRONOUNCED EVERY DAY. THIS PANEL'S ROLE OF ADVISING

THE ARMY IN SCIENTIFIC AND RELATED FIELDS BECOMES MORE
IMPORTANT AS THE UNKNOWN FUTURE TAKES SHAPE AND
APPROACHES. I REALIZE THAT YOU SCIENTISTS AND INDUSTRIAL
AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS DEVOTE TIME AND EFFORT TO THE
ARMY'S CAUSE, AND THE ARMY IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE
EFFORT OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE PANEL.

I WOULD INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOUR LONG-RANGE
ARMY OBJECTIVES OF INCREASING OUR MOBILITY, INCREASING OUR
FIREPOWER, IMPROVING OUR COMMUNICATIONS, AND DEVELOPING
MORE FLEXIBLE SYSTEMS FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT. WE NEED
PROGRESS IN EACH OF THESE FIELDS, AND THE HORIZONS WE AIM
FOR ARE UNLIMITED.

THERE IS ONE ADDITIONAL OVER-ALL OBJECTIVE OF WHICH
YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE -- THAT IS, THE NEED FOR INCREASED
PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF THE ARMY. NEEDLESS

TO SAY, WE HAVE GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF SEARCHING STUDY TO
ALL FORMS OF MILITARY POWER AND CONCLUDE THAT THERE
CONTINUES A STRONG NATIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR A POWERFUL
ARMY. I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU INFORMED GENTLEMEN
SHARE THIS BELIEF. MUCH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT
INFORMED, HOWEVER, IN THE SENSE OF REALIZING THE DANGER
OF OVEREMPHASIS ON THE OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF AIRPLANES
CARRYING ATOMIC BOMBS. IN THE LIGHT OF POLITICAL REALITIES,
PLUS THE PRESENT AND FUTURE CAPABILITIES OF OTHER FORMS
OF MILITARY POWER, IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAT WE
NOT PLACE UNDUE RELIANCE ON ANY ONE SYSTEM, AND ESPECIALLY
NOT ON AN UNTRIED SYSTEM. THEREFORE, I BESPEAK YOUR
HELP, WITHIN YOUR PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES AND WITH THE
PUBLIC AT LARGE, IN SPEAKING AND WRITING OF THE ARMY'S
CASE.

FINALLY, I HOPE YOUR SHORT STAY AT FORT BRAGG WILL
ENCOURAGE YOU TO RETURN AND SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE
ARMY WHENEVER YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY. YOU WILL BE
MADE WELCOME AT ANY ARMY POST YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT.
WITH GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE
BEST SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT,
SUCH AS IS REPRESENTED IN THIS ROOM, THE ARMY WILL BE BETTER
ABLE TO PERFORM ITS MISSION OF DETERRING WAR -- OR, IF
DETERRENCE FAILS, TO WIN ANY WAR THAT IS VISITED UPON US.

END