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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

MINUTES OF PRESS CONFERENCE

HELD BY

GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR

CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY

Tuesday, 10 January 1956 - 10:33 a. m. - Room 2E-715

The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

BRIG. GEN. RIGGS: Gentlemen, this is General Taylor. General Taylor will have a few opening remarks to make and you will find copies of his formal remarks on your chair.

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, ladies and gentlemen, I am very glad to have a chance to meet with the Press this morning and I am sorry to report that the cold that prevented my being with you as scheduled last Friday is still here and my singing voice is really in lamentable condition. I thought I would like to meet with the Press at this time, first, because it is the start of the New Year and, secondly, because I am about to leave on a short trip to the Caribbean.

With regard to the latter, I am going to first the Canal Zone by way of Mexico City and have a seminar there in the Canal Zone with the Army representatives from all over Latin America. As you know, the Army is the executive agent for this area and I have always had a keen interest in it. This goes back to 1940 when as a Captain I went through that area working for a "Major" Ridgway incidentally when I was a member of a team which visited many of these countries to discuss the problems of hemisphere defense. I would like very much to go back to all these countries again, but at this time my schedule will not permit it so I am going to do the next best thing by talking to the Army representatives there.

Can you hear me?

THE PRESS: General, I don't think we are hearing you very well back here. I don't know whether the gadgets are working or not.

GEN. TAYLOR: Do you have a loud speaker? I will just have to do better then. I am sorry; my voice is in bad shape here.

I am going to make an initial statement which is the copy you have in front of you, following it very essentially and departing from it very slightly, so that notes will probably not be necessary.

In the Army at the start of a New Year, like many individuals, I think, is always a time for making good resolutions. At least I decided to go through that operation last week and asked myself as Chief of Staff what I would do or what I thought the Army should do in a better way for the coming year. I could probably make a long list of these resolutions, but they probably would be no better kept than our private resolutions, as such, but if I had to boil them down to about three or four items the real issues which are of vital importance to the Army and which could be stated as good resolutions, I think they would be about as follows:

First, I would say the Army has resolved in the person of the Chief of Staff to increase its efforts to improve Army modernization. I have often had occasion to say of late that warfare is in a period of rapid transition, the most rapid, perhaps, in all history. It is a time when Army minds must never cease to probe the possibilities of new weapons systems and the requirements of future war.

In entering 1956 the Army has reached the point where it knows pretty well what its organizations should be for the possibilities of atomic war. During the last few years the Army has been testing various organizational and tactical concepts in order to determine how it should fight on the atomic battlefield. I know many of you went to SAGEBRUSH and understand that the purpose of that exercise to a large degree was to attempt to validate some of the concepts and ideas which we have been developing. I think that test was very fruitful. I do not have the complete analysis yet because there were so many things involved, but I expect to have them in the course of the next month. I am sure that based upon SAGEBRUSH in addition to the other preparations we have made that the Army will face some very important decisions in the near future.

One of these will effect the reorganization of combat and support units so as to give them greater effectiveness on the atomic battlefield. Already, as you know, the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division have been reorganized along the new lines and were tested at SAGEBRUSH. In 1956 the Army plans to organize the 101st Airborne Division, my old World War II Division, as an Airborne Division on an entirely new basis. In other words, we will be testing in airborne fields new organizations just as we have in the past year been testing in the fields of the Infantry Division and Armored Division.

I don't think the Army has done badly in moving forward in modernization in 1955. We can point to real progress in the development of our firepower, particularly on missiles and rockets--NIKE, HONEST JOHN, CORPORAL, and the new and the very promising REDSTONE.

The Army needs a wide span of guided missiles to extend its firepower both horizontally and vertically. In 1956 we will be working toward increasing in both planes the ranges of this type of new artillery. The Army, using REDSTONE, and in partnership with the Navy, is developing a medium range missile, a 1500-mile missile. The Army expects to spend more and more of its money in continuing efforts to expand its missile system. We feel that in NIKE we have the beginning of a family of ground-to-air missiles which represent a real hope for an effective element of the air defense of the United States and critical overseas installations. These ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles will give our forces tremendous destructive firepower ranging far ahead of and above our front lines, that is, high into the enemy air space, and deep into the vital sources of strength of our enemy ground forces.

In the field of tactical mobility the Army expects to continue to add to its organic aviation. We have already increased our mobility through the acquisition of new small planes and a considerable number of helicopters. We have a carefully developed air mobility program extending several years into the future. We expect to implement that phase by phase as our financial resources permit.

In the field of strategic mobility, as apart from tactical mobility, the movement of Army elements rapidly about the world in commercial-type aircraft, we remain the hitchhikers of our friends in the Air Force. We sincerely hope that through cooperative efforts in 1956, we can extend the capability of our Army forces to intervene rapidly to resist aggression anywhere about the world.

Now the organization of the Army does not mean merely the acquisition of new equipment, or the pyramiding of financial requirements. I am convinced that the Army must do each year a better job of screening its own requirements and eliminating everything from its shopping list which is really not essential. I feel that by modernizing our tactical formations, and by pooling those items of equipment which are not habitually needed within that unit, we can effect savings which to a degree will offset the increased costs of our new armament. Our slogan should be, "Possess the indispensable, but pool the sometimes necessary."

So much for my first good resoltuion of modernization.

My next resolution would be to put increasing drive into our development of the Reserve Forces. As you know, we have been very busy since last August in implementing the Reserve Forces Act of 1955. I personally do not know of any single piece of legislation which has received more coordinated support within the Army than this particular Act. If the Army has left any stone unturned to get the maximum from the provisions of this act frankly I don't know where that stone is found. Nevertheless, as you know, the record of our voluntary enlistments under the Reserve Forces Act is far from spectacular. However, I don't believe for a moment that we should say that the program is a failure. I will accept no pessimism nor half-hearted efforts on the part of Army personnel to make this program work. I am certain that by continuing in 1956 to exert the same effort toward making it a success, the Army will inject renewed strength into its Reserve Forces. Meanwhile, the need for a truly effective, ready Reserve Force is always with us. We can never maintain in being all the forces which may be required by military emergencies. Only if we have a portion of our Reserve Forces ready for combat within a few months after D-Day can we discharge our world-wide commitments.

My third resolution is to do more good for our people who make up the Army. In all this discussion and consideration of new arms, equipment, and gadgets, we always run the risk of putting too much thought upon things, and not enough thought on people. Regardless of the equipment and the weapons which we may develop, the Army will never be any better than the 1,500,000 men and women in and out of uniform who compose its ranks. Army personnel do not lead an easy life. The Army is a hard working, conscientious society serving in 73 foreign nations and in every state in the Union. The Army needs better housing, improved living conditions for our families, and more stability of assignment. Now some of these things we can do for ourselves. As Chief of Staff I intend to pursue them, but other requirements will require the assistance of legislation. I sincerely hope that the friends of the Army in public and private life will join with me in making the lot of Army people better in 1956.

My final resolution is one that embraces the entire mission of the Army. Those of us in Army uniform must resolve, during the coming year, to increase the deterrent power of America's military might so as to restrain war in all its forms. The Army sees its mission primarily as that of deterring war; secondarily,

that of winning war. We feel that we are deterring war by our deployments overseas where the American soldier is a visible symbol of the determination of America to resist further aggression. We are deterring war overseas by our military missions which are engaged in training foreign troops in countries threatened by possible aggression. I wonder how many of our citizens realize that the American Army is the largest training organization in the world, training directly or indirectly over 200 foreign divisions.

Today, there is an unprecedented requirement to have Army forces in being and ready to fight under a wide variety of conditions. This requirement arises from the potential enemy threat on the ground. While Soviet and satellite ground forces may not immediately threaten this continent, their formidable forces constitute potential threat to our allies in Europe and in Asia. In numbers the Communist armies vastly outnumber those of the Free World. Quality-wise the Communist forces are being constantly improved in organization and in weapons. There are over five million men under arms in the USSR, East Germany, and in the Eastern satellites. Approximately 3-1/2 million of these are ground forces. Beyond this strength in being, Russia and her European satellites have a mobilization capacity to increase their forces to about 375 divisions in the field by M plus 30. The Soviet bloc nations continue to strengthen their armies by modernization.

The peacetime 175 divisions of Soviet Russia and the Chinese Communist Army, modernized into approximately 150 divisions, the Chinese forces, represent capacity for both atomic or non-atomic aggression which the United States and its allies must be prepared to deter.

The American Army must achieve greater combat readiness to deter not only the big war, but also the small war which may occur any place about the world. That is why we are stressing so much the air transportability and strategic mobility which are indispensable for a prompt reaction to unexpected aggression. We feel that the small war must be deterred, or won quickly; otherwise, it may extend to the big war which would be a disaster to all participants.

The Army recognizes that deterrence must be tri-dimensional--in the air, on the sea, and on the ground. It can result only from the effective cooperation and team play of all three Services. In 1956 the Army resolves to continue to be a

good partner to our sister Services. We will do everything within our power, through our cooperation, to make easier the job of the Airman, the Sailor, and the Marine in time of war. We only bespeak in return a similar attitude for the Soldier whose role in war has always been the hardest in the past and is unlikely to change in the future.

Finally, I would like to say that I think the Army has a great deal to be thankful for in 1955. I feel that there is increased understanding of the roles and missions of the Army, that there is less preclusive attention paid to the air-nuclear threat, and greater recognition of the dangers of the one short war concept. I believe that we have made progress in convincing Americans of the need for versatility of military strength and of flexibility in the application of our military power. Moreover, 1955 has been personally a year for thanksgiving for me to have been privileged to work in company with the thousands and thousands of loyal Army people stationed throughout the world. They are a gallant company deserving well of the nation. I hope that you will join with me, ladies and gentlemen, in wishing that Army a Happy New Year, as I wish each one of you of the Press in 1956 a prosperous year and most important for us all a year of peace.

Before opening the meeting to questions, I would like to introduce an important reinforcement I brought, General Meloy.

General Meloy, will you stand up and take a bow?

. . . General Meloy acknowledged the introduction. . .

GEN. TAYLOR (Continuing): General Meloy is a veteran of two wars. He has recently given up the command of one of our famous divisions, the 1st Division. He was exposed briefly to life in the Pentagon when I was Deputy Chief of Staff. We let him slip through our fingers at that time. Having proved gallantry in the field of battle, I think he is prepared at this time for the Pentagon. I know he looks forward to cooperation from you gentlemen and I am sure he will be a distinguished representative of the Army in your midst.

I am awfully sorry our old friend General Riggs has about served his term and is on his way to Korea. Korea remains an assignment of opportunity to the Army and is one which I look back on sometimes with nostalgia. I want to express my gratitude to General Riggs for the service rendered the Army mostly as the head of the Public Information Office, also during the period that he was a Deputy.

With the aid and support of these two gentlemen I am prepared to try to answer any questions.

THE PRESS: Could you discuss the circumstances in which the Army might have a requirement for this 1500-mile missile?

GEN. TAYLOR: We are working on the principle that the nation needs the missile and we have not really got down to the brass tacks of how, under whose control, and under what conditions it will be used. Certainly range is always an advantage. Range gives you wider flexibility in the choice of targets and allows greater dispersion of your own launching sites with increased safety and it avoids the displacement of supplies and equipment overseas when you really have your firepower safely installed well to the rear. There are many possibilities in the future.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, you referred to "a carefully developed air mobility program extending several years into the future." I was wondering whether the implementation of that program depends on the liberalization of this memorandum of understanding which restricts the weight of your planes and zone of operation in which they fly?

GEN. TAYLOR: I am not raising that question at this time. I think, of course, as we say, "time marches on." The technology increases and whenever we have accepted, you might say, the mechanical limitations on a weapon, eventually we have outgrown that. However, our program is not predicated on requirement of that change, or any change at this time.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, you indicated late in the speech that the short war concepts, the dangers of that have been recognized. Could you indicate how this recognition has been expressed?

GEN. TAYLOR: You couldn't pin me down for that documentation. I read the editorials that many of you gentlemen contribute to and it just seems to me throughout the country there have been many comments showing an awareness that it is dangerous to prepare for only one kind of war. That is just one man's opinion.

THE PRESS: Many of us perhaps erroneously have gotten the impression that the short war concept is accepted as part of our Joint Chiefs of Staff thinking.

GEN. TAYLOR: I cannot comment on the Joint Chiefs of Staff aspect of it. Certainly it's not part of my thinking.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, is the Army prepared--has the Army prepared any specific amendments they would like to have in the present Armed Forces Reserve Act, do you think, that would make the program work better?

GEN. TAYLOR: We feel it is going to need almost a year of implementation, until next summer, to know really what the problem is. We are, of course, watching it closely and making notes of possible changes we might suggest. We have no completed program at this time.

THE PRESS: What about the rate of pay? Do you have any---

GEN. TAYLOR: That is a very unhappy arrangement under which the Guard and the Reserve get different rates of pay.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, you also referred to strategic mobility and indicated that you needed more assurance, assurance of more airlift for your ground troops . How do you expect to get that? Are you asking for any increase in the airlift capability of the Air Force?

GEN. TAYLOR: It is not so much the need for quantitative increases as more training, joint operations, development of techniques which assure the rapidity of reaction which I think are necessary. Actually when you add up all the possible resources in the United States in time of war they are very considerable now.

THE PRESS: It isn't then a question of enough planes, is that it?

GEN. TAYLOR: That is only one aspect of it. I would say the operational aspect, the increased technical proficiency perhaps should be weighted above the question of numbers.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, do you feel the 1957 budget provides a satisfactory basis for this tri-dimensional program you mentioned?

GEN. TAYLOR: I really should have said at the outset, as a matter of propriety I shouldn't comment on the budget. I am going to appear before the Congress in a few days and I am going to let them have the first crack at that.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, can you describe in some general way the organization of the 3rd Division and the 1st Armored, I think it is. There is a new pattern of organization.

GEN. TAYLOR: I can just in general terms because I don't think -- it is a rather technical matter and if you want more I would suggest you get it through the Operations Division. The general concept in both cases, however, is related to our estimate of the atomic battlefield. As we visualize it, dispersion must be the rule. We can't assemble our troops except for very brief movements because of the danger of atomic attack. Consequently we must have smaller self-contained cells in our units which are able to sustain themselves, have integrated mobility. So that instead of having -- thinking a division, for example, as one mass to strike a blow with, rather you will have a number of small blows which you can assemble in time and space in the course of your maneuvers, but you will rarely have them together at any given moment. That thought goes through both the armored and the infantry division, can also be carried to the airborne concept.

THE PRESS: General, can you tell us when and where you expect to test this 101st Airborne Division, new organization?

GEN. TAYLOR: This will be done at Campbell. It will be started with the 187th Airborne RCT which is moving from Bragg to Campbell. We will progressively build up the strength of that division. It will not be entirely assembled before--I think it's the end of next summer, and we are now working on the blueprints of the organization.

THE PRESS: General, getting back to this first question on the question of the memorandum of understanding, I am sorry I didn't hear the last part of that. You said at the present time your program is not predicated on a revision.

GEN. TAYLOR: The immediate increments which we are seeking right now.

THE PRESS: Well, you mentioned in your statement that you have a carefully developed program extending several years into the future. You mean that program, the one you now have, does not involve a revision of the memorandum of understanding?

GEN. TAYLOR: The answer is hard to make because some of the things we are seeking in the program -- we don't have the plane

yet. In other words, we don't know whether it will exceed 5,000 pounds or not. But we are definitely interested in getting faster planes, at the same time not increasing runways. In other words, we may well be interested in jet aircraft but we have to bear in mind that we still want to stay within the really puddle jumper concept of Army aviation which has made it so invaluable on our battlefield.

THE PRESS: Well, then the over-all requirement that you drafted does envisage larger aircraft than the one you are now able to use?

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, I will put it again differently. Better aircraft, aircraft that can do things which the present ones can't do, but in many cases since we don't actually have the aircraft I can't say.

THE PRESS: Would it be fair to say, General, that this air mobility program is tied actually to your ability to persuade Congress or Mr. Wilson or somebody that the Army needs new procurement money?

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, of course, that is true of any program. It depends on what the financial allocations are that are made from year to year, and each year we have to defend the increment which we put in for.

THE PRESS: Do you expect to be able to make a start at it this year?

GEN. TAYLOR: We are making progress, yes.

THE PRESS: Gen. Taylor, will you discuss a guided missile that has been assigned to the Army? What are the limits of it?

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, I haven't read the JCS paper for some time and it's a highly technical document. By and large, we have the missiles which are essentially antiaircraft as typified by NIKE, and those which are essentially artillery, and we say that all of the missiles we have, surface-to-surface, are essentially artillery.

THE PRESS: I wonder when the effect of the 1500 mile range might be achieved.

GEN. TAYLOR: Might what?

THE PRESS: When you think the 1500 mile range might be achieved by the REDSTONE.

GEN. TAYLOR: I really wouldn't like to say except to tell you that certainly the Army is putting everything it has got behind that missile.

THE PRESS: Is it promising?

GEN. TAYLOR: Yes, I think they have a good basis for start.

THE PRESS: Will this medium range missile be a development of the REDSTONE or is it an entirely new missile?

GEN. TAYLOR: It will be worked on by the people who have the REDSTONE experience. To what extent they can move across directly elements of REDSTONE I can't say.

THE PRESS: Gen. Taylor, how far does your missile range extend when you refer to the fact that this will help the Army strike deep at the sources of the enemy's ground strength? How far does that go? I mean does it go to the arsenals and to the war plants that produce the weapons?

GEN. TAYLOR: It could -- in the handout -- of course, there is no limit upon the type of target which it might strike. I am always thinking in terms of enemy ground forces since they are the primary target of all of our Army weapons systems.

THE PRESS: That is the ground forces and their supply sources and their support?

GEN. TAYLOR: Of course, as far as possible I say you can hit anything, but really the justification for the Army insofar as its (inaudible) is concerned is destroy enemy armies in the field.

THE PRESS: Gen. Taylor, I suspect the question is here that when you get this 1500 mile range missile developed by the Army is it going to be turned over on a silver platter to the Air Force to use, or is that anopen question at this point?

GEN. TAYLOR: I can't answer that. There is no positive answer one way or the other. We have taken it as a national requirement and got everything behind it to develop it for the nation.

THE PRESS: Gen. Taylor, can you address yourself to some

specific details in this program under your third resolution to do more for the good people who make up the Army, as you put it in your statement?

GEN. TAYLOR: Yes. If you haven't received it I would be glad to give you the specific legislative acts which the Army is backing.

THE PRESS: I was thinking more of "some of these needs are within our own means and I intend to see that we do the most we can for ourselves."

GEN. TAYLOR: Stability of tours is one thing. I want to make a real drive to see if we can't stabilize people around the world. It is not only bad for morale, it is bad for efficiency when our people are whipped about the way they are. It is not an easy problem as long as we have 40 percent of the Army overseas and 60 percent here in the United States.

THE PRESS: Well, are you planning to do more for the people in the Army than this bill that they sent up to Congress?

GEN. TAYLOR: Really I have in mind primarily the package of proposals which we have been supporting.

THE PRESS: You say you have in mind--

GEN. TAYLOR: I have in mind that package of proposals plus those things which I say we ourselves can improve.

THE PRESS: You are referring then more to the fringe benefit type than to anything else in that?

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, that is part of it and also the improved uniforms of the Army, the new uniform system we are bringing in, the idea of developing morale and esprit and happiness in the service, although there are many related activities which fall partially at least into that area.

THE PRESS: What about the regimental band, General?

GEN. TAYLOR: I am all for it.

THE PRESS: General Taylor, you referred to the deterrent of the United States soldier overseas in showing our determination to back up our allies. That would imply that you

favor having our troops overseas in considerable quantity. Does that in any way conflict with an earlier idea of the strategic reserve of troops being held within the United States?

GEN. TAYLOR: No, I think they are both a part of the same thing. I feel we must have this deterrent strength on the spot or very nearly thereto, with the strength of the United States as the mobile reserve able to be adjusted to the requirements overseas.

THE PRESS: Well, can you do both with the limited Army that you now have?

GEN. TAYLOR: We certainly can to a degree. Of course, there's a measure of how much is enough that is very hard to answer. But I consider every soldier we have in Europe is exercising a definite part in the deterrence of general war by his presence there. Similarly in Korea, the likelihood of a resumption of hostilities in Korea is definitely controlled by the fact that we have American soldiers right on the front line. I might say also that same deterrence is added indirectly by our development of indigenous strength around the peripheries of the communist bloc. These 200 divisions I am talking about certainly are a part of our deterrent for us overseas.

THE PRESS: It isn't the quantity then of soldiers overseas but the very fact that they are there?

GEN. TAYLOR: I think so. Of course I wouldn't disregard the importance of quantity, but actually the thin red line the British used to talk about is really now the thin khaki line of the American Army employed overseas which has very definite political and morale effects wherever those soldiers are found.

THE PRESS: These 200 divisions you are referring to don't include the forces of NATO countries, do they?

GEN. TAYLOR: I would have to get my statistician out. In those cases where we don't actually train they are not counted. As you know, many of our MAAGs simply look after the equipment, the technical side of it.

THE PRESS: General, getting back to the guided missiles, you list REDSTONE in the same context as NIKE, HONEST JOHN, and CORPORAL. Does that indicate that like the other three missiles

REDSTONE is in heavy volume production and being delivered to troops?

GEN. TAYLOR: No, it should not be interpreted that way. I say it is a promising missile that we are in the course of developing.

THE PRESS: General, will you continue development of REDSTONE with its present range in addition to going on to the medium range missile?

GEN. TAYLOR: Definitely. Definitely. We need REDSTONE as now conceived.

THE PRESS: General, where do you plan to have your larger experimental program in missiles? Will that be overseas or over water or over land, and if it is over land where will it be?

GEN. TAYLOR: The long ones will have to be fired overseas.

THE PRESS: Overseas?

GEN. TAYLOR: Yes.

THE PRESS: Over water.

THE PRESS: Gen. Taylor, I understand you recently saw a RESTONE fired. Can you tell us your experience in watching it?

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, it was tremendously impressive as I think all the missile business is. You are amazed at the human ingenuity that produced some of these things which are now coming forward. I can remember only a few years ago when I was in this building how impossible some of these objectives seemed. Yet we know we are approaching them.

THE PRESS: General, your statement about the Army being hitchhikers of the Air Force seems to imply that something is desired in the way of strategic mobility. Do you have a specific program of increased cooperative operations next year, maneuvers?

GEN. TAYLOR: First we are trying to do -- as in all things, we would like to begin at home and improve ourselves. We have

never really streamlined Army equipment adequately in my judgement. So a great drive is being put on to simplify and reduce the weights of our organic weapons so that we don't have problems. We presented very difficult problems to the Air Force in asking them to take some of these loads. Then having done that, I am most anxious that we rehearse at least in a token way so that we verify that my Army divisions are capable of doing their part. It is not necessary to pick up a whole division and move it around the country. It is really -- on a small unit basis it's an entirely feasible program.

THE PRESS: You don't mean to imply by that that the Army ought to have its own troop lift capacity?

GEN. TAYLOR: I do not.

THE PRESS: You said you were working at streamlining weapons and reducing weight. Does that mean that research and development people will start to work at the use of the new materials like titanium and things of that sort in the next year?

GEN. TAYLOR: Air transportability is always a requirement now injected into the new equipment which we are seeking. In other words, it limits very much of the value of any equipment you can't get to move around the world very quickly.

THE PRESS: Some time ago, sir, there was talk about the development of a lighter jeep in the way of an aluminum jeep.

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, I can't comment on that, but I am all for a lighter jeep.

THE PRESS: Gen. Taylor, you mentioned the fact that the Communists have three and a half million forces in the European theater. Can you indicate to us what our side has in total force and whether it can at this time or in the near future be able to counterbalance the communist force?

GEN. TAYLOR: Well, I am really not prepared to give you the figures because I don't have them. I certainly don't believe that military strength is purely a head count or division count. Certainly quality weighs very heavily into any consideration of the balance. We saw there in Korea where a small number of our American and ROK divisions stabilized and (inaudible)

INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL MELOY
AND FAREWELL TO GENERAL RIGGS
AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE
~~6~~ 10 JANUARY 1956

AT THIS JUNCTURE OF OUR MEETING I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT TODAY, I AM WELL SERVED BY TWO PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS, GENERAL MELOY, AND GENERAL RIGGS.

MAJOR GENERAL GUY S. MELOY, JR., COMES TO THIS PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSIGNMENT WITH A DISTINGUISHED RECORD AND BROAD EXPERIENCE, BOTH OF WHICH QUALIFY HIM WELL FOR DUAL DUTY AS THE ARMY'S CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AT SECRETARIAL LEVEL, AND ALSO AS CHIEF OF INFORMATION WITHIN MY OFFICE. A VETERAN OF TWO WORLD WARS, GENERAL MELOY HOLDS AMONG OTHER DECORATIONS, THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. A GRADUATE OF THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (1949), GENERAL MELOY HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 1st INFANTRY DIVISION. I KNOW THAT MANY OF

YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH GENERAL MELOY, BECAUSE HE SERVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION AS CHIEF OF CIVIL RELATIONS IN 1951. THIS CONFERENCE AFFORDS ME THE PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE GENERAL MELOY, JR., TO YOU IN HIS NEW ARMY CAPACITIES. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL FIND HIS SERVICE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH OF US, IN OUR EFFORTS TO SERVE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL T. S. (SCOTTY) RIGGS, WHOM YOU ALL KNOW, WILL DEPART SOON FOR KOREA, AFTER HAVING ABLY SERVED THE ARMY AS BOTH DEPUTY AND AS CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK GENERAL RIGGS FOR HIS SERVICES HERE IN WASHINGTON, AND TO WISH HIM FURTHER SUCCESS IN HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT.

FLANKED AS I AM BY THESE TWO ABLE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS, I NOW INVITE YOUR QUESTIONS.

PRESS CONFERENCE
BY GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1956 -- 10:30 AM (EST)
ROOM 2E-715, THE PENTAGON

GENTLEMEN, I AM VERY HAPPY TO WELCOME THE PRESS TODAY IN OUR FIRST GATHERING OF THE NEW YEAR. I HOPE THAT YOU ALL ENJOYED YOUR HOLIDAYS, AND ARE READY TO JOIN ME IN PUTTING ASIDE THE FRUIT CAKE AND EGG NOG TO FACE THE RATHER FORMIDABLE REALITIES OF 1956. I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU TODAY MORE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING TO YOU THE GOOD WISHES OF THE ARMY RATHER THAN TO BRING TO YOU ANY BURNING MESSAGE OR IMPORTANT POLICY STATEMENT. I AM ABOUT TO DEPART ON A SHORT TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN WHICH WILL KEEP ME OUT OF WASHINGTON FOR ABOUT SIX DAYS. CONSEQUENTLY, IN ADVANCE OF MY DEPARTURE I DECIDED IT WOULD BE WELL TO HAVE THIS MEETING WITH THE PRESS.

WITH REGARD TO MY TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN, THE PURPOSE IS TO VISIT A THEATER WHICH I HAVE NOT SEEN FOR MANY YEARS,

FOR WHICH THE ARMY IS EXECUTIVE AGENT. WHILE THERE I AM GOING TO CONDUCT A TWO-DAY SEMINAR WITH THE ARMY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY MISSIONS SCATTERED THROUGH LATIN AMERICA. I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD SINCE 1940 WHEN I WAS A MEMBER OF A WAR DEPARTMENT TEAM WHICH VISITED MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF HEMISPHERE DEFENSE. I ONLY REGRET THAT MY SCHEDULE THIS TIME PREVENTS A PERSONAL VISIT TO OUR FRIENDS IN LATIN AMERICA. THEREFORE, I HAVE DECIDED TO DO THE NEXT BEST THING, NAMELY, TO TALK DIRECTLY TO THE MEN WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARMY PART OF THE PROGRAM IN THESE COUNTRIES.

THE NEW YEAR IS ALWAYS A TIME FOR MAKING GOOD RESOLUTIONS, AND AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, I INDULGED IN THAT PRACTICE OVER THE PAST WEEKEND. I ASKED MYSELF,

"WHAT SHOULD THE ARMY RESOLVE TO DO BETTER, OR TO DO DIFFERENTLY, DURING THE COMING YEAR IN THE DISCHARGE OF ITS ROLES AND MISSIONS?" I COULD, I SUPPOSE, MAKE A LONG LIST OF GOOD RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY GO THE WAY OF MOST GOOD RESOLVES MADE IN A SPIRIT OF NEW YEAR REPENTANCE. BUT IF I WERE ASKED WHAT ARE THE REAL RESOLUTIONS I HAVE TAKEN, THOSE WHICH ARE SUREST TO BE KEPT, I COULD NARROW THE FIELD TO ABOUT FOUR.

FIRST, THE ARMY IS RESOLVED IN THE PERSON OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO INCREASE ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ARMY MODERNIZATION. I HAVE OFTEN HAD OCCASION TO SAY OF LATE THAT WARFARE IS IN A PERIOD OF RAPID TRANSITION, THE MOST RAPID, PERHAPS, IN HISTORY. IT IS A TIME WHEN ARMY MINDS MUST NEVER CEASE TO PROBE THE POSSIBILITIES

OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF FUTURE WAR.

IN ENTERING 1956 THE ARMY HAS REACHED THE POINT WHERE IT KNOWS IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT ITS ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE FOR THE POSSIBILITIES OF ATOMIC WAR. DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS THE ARMY HAS BEEN TESTING VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONAL AND TACTICAL CONCEPTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW IT SHOULD FIGHT ON THE ATOMIC BATTLEFIELD. IN THE "SAGEBRUSH" MANEUVER WE HAD FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THE CONCEPTS IN THEIR MOST ADVANCED FORM. WE ARE EVALUATING THE RESULTS OF "SAGEBRUSH," AND CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL EMERGE. THE TEST HAS BEEN FRUITFUL. WITHIN THE COMING MONTHS WE SHALL MAKE SOME BASIC DECISIONS AFFECTING THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMY OF THE FUTURE. ONE OF THESE WILL EFFECT

THE REORGANIZATION OF COMBAT AND SUPPORT UNITS SO AS TO GIVE THEM GREATER EFFECTIVENESS ON THE ATOMIC BATTLEFIELD. ALREADY THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE 1ST ARMORED DIVISION ARE ORGANIZED ALONG NEW LINES RESEMBLING THE LIKELY PATTERN FOR FUTURE REORGANIZATIONS. IN 1956 THE ARMY PLANS TO ORGANIZE THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION ON A NEW BASIS, AND TEST ITS STRUCTURE JUST AS WE DID THAT OF THE 1ST ARMORED AND 3RD INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

IN MOVING FORWARD IN SELF-MODERNIZATION, THE ARMY HAS NOT DONE BADLY IN 1955. WE CAN POINT TO REAL PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FIREPOWER AS EVIDENCED BY OUR MISSILES AND ROCKETS -- "NIKE," "HONEST JOHN," "CORPORAL," AND THE NEW AND VERY PROMISING "REDSTONE."

THE ARMY NEEDS A WIDE SPAN OF GUIDED MISSILES TO EXTEND ITS FIREPOWER HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY. IN 1956 WE WILL BE WORKING TOWARD INCREASING IN BOTH PLANES THE RANGES OF THIS TYPE OF NEW ARTILLERY. THE ARMY, USING "REDSTONE," AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NAVY, IS DEVELOPING A MEDIUM RANGE MISSILE. THE ARMY EXPECTS TO SPEND MORE AND MORE OF ITS MONEY IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORT TO EXPAND ITS MISSILE SYSTEM. WE FEEL THAT IN "NIKE" WE HAVE THE BEGINNING OF A FAMILY OF GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES WHICH REPRESENT A REAL HOPE FOR AN EFFECTIVE ELEMENT OF THE AIR DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND CRITICAL OVERSEAS INSTALLATIONS. THESE GROUND-TO-GROUND AND GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES WILL GIVE OUR FORCES TREMENDOUS DESTRUCTIVE FIREPOWER RANGING FAR AHEAD OF AND ABOVE OUR FRONT LINES, THAT IS, HIGH

INTO THE ENEMY AIR SPACE, AND DEEP INTO THE VITAL SOURCES OF STRENGTH OF OUR ENEMY GROUND FORCES.

IN THE FIELD OF TACTICAL MOBILITY THE ARMY EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO ADD TO ITS ORGANIC AVIATION. WE HAVE ALREADY INCREASED OUR MOBILITY THROUGH THE ACQUISITION OF NEW SMALL AIRPLANES AND CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF HELICOPTERS. WE HAVE A CAREFULLY DEVELOPED AIR MOBILITY PROGRAM EXTENDING SEVERAL YEARS INTO THE FUTURE. WE EXPECT TO IMPLEMENT IT PHASE BY PHASE AS OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES PERMIT.

IN THE FIELD OF STRATEGIC MOBILITY, THE MOVEMENT OF ARMY ELEMENTS RAPIDLY ABOUT THE WORLD IN COMMERCIAL-TYPE AIRCRAFT, WE REMAIN THE HITCHHIKERS OF OUR FRIENDS OF THE AIR FORCE. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT THROUGH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN 1956, WE CAN EXTEND THE CAPABILITY

OF OUR ARMY FORCES TO INTERVENE RAPIDLY TO RESIST AGGRESSION ANYWHERE ABOUT THE WORLD.

TRUE MODERNIZATION OF THE ARMY DOES NOT MEAN MERELY THE ACQUISITION OF NEW EQUIPMENT, OR THE PYRAMIDING OF FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE ARMY MUST DO EACH YEAR A BETTER JOB OF SCREENING ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS AND ELIMINATING EVERYTHING FROM ITS SHOPPING LIST WHICH IS NOT TRULY ESSENTIAL. I FEEL THAT BY MODERNIZING OUR TACTICAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND BY POOLING THOSE ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH ARE NOT HABITUALLY NEEDED WITHIN THAT UNIT, WE CAN EFFECT SAVINGS WHICH TO A DEGREE WILL OFFSET THE INCREASED COSTS OF OUR NEW ARMAMENT. OUR SLOGAN SHOULD BE, "POSSESS THE INDISPENSABLE, BUT POOL THE SOMETIMES NECESSARY."

MY NEXT RESOLUTION IS TO PUT INCREASING DRIVE INTO OUR DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESERVE FORCES. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY SINCE LAST AUGUST IN IMPLEMENTING THE RESERVE FORCES ACT OF 1955. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PIECE OF LEGISLATION WHICH HAS RECEIVED MORE COORDINATED SUPPORT WITHIN THE ARMY THAN THIS PARTICULAR ACT. IF THE ARMY HAS LEFT ANY STONE UNTURNED TO GET THE MAXIMUM FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THAT STONE IS FOUND. NEVERTHELESS, AS YOU KNOW, THE RECORD OF OUR VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENTS UNDER THE RESERVE FORCES ACT OF 1955 IS FAR FROM SPECTACULAR. HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT THAT WE SHOULD SAY THAT THE PROGRAM IS A FAILURE. I WILL ACCEPT NO PESSIMISM NOR HALF-HEARTED EFFORTS ON THE PART OF ARMY PERSONNEL TO MAKE THIS PROGRAM WORK. I AM

CERTAIN THAT BY CONTINUING IN 1956 TO EXERT THE SAME EFFORT TOWARD MAKING THIS ACT A SUCCESS, THE ARMY WILL INJECT RENEWED STRENGTH INTO ITS RESERVE FORCES. MEANWHILE, THE NEED FOR A TRULY EFFECTIVE, READY RESERVE FORCE IS ALWAYS WITH US. WE CAN NEVER MAINTAIN IN BEING ALL THE FORCES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY POSSIBLE MILITARY EMERGENCIES. ONLY IF WE HAVE A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF OUR RESERVE FORCES READY FOR COMBAT WITHIN A FEW MONTHS AFTER D-DAY CAN WE SUCCESSFULLY DISCHARGE OUR WORLD-WIDE STRATEGICAL COMMITMENTS.

MY THIRD RESOLUTION IS TO DO MORE FOR OUR GOOD PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP THE ARMY. IN ALL THIS DISCUSSION OF NEW ARMS, EQUIPMENT, AND GADGETS, WE RUN THE RISK OF PUTTING TOO MUCH THOUGHT UPON THINGS, AND NOT ENOUGH ON PEOPLE. REGARDLESS OF THE EQUIPMENT AND THE WEAPONS

WHICH WE MAY DEVELOP, THE ARMY WILL NEVER BE ANY BETTER THAN THE MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND, MEN AND WOMEN IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM WHO COMPOSE ITS RANKS. ARMY PERSONNEL DO NOT LEAD AN EASY LIFE. THE ARMY IS A HARD WORKING, CONSCIENTIOUS SOCIETY SERVING IN 73 FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND IN EVERY STATE IN THE UNION. THE ARMY NEEDS BETTER HOUSING, IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS FOR OUR FAMILIES, AND MORE STABILITY OF ASSIGNMENT. SOME OF THESE NEEDS ARE WITHIN OUR OWN MEANS, AND AS CHIEF OF STAFF I INTEND TO SEE THAT WE DO THE MOST WE CAN FOR OURSELVES. OTHER REQUIREMENTS WILL REQUIRE THE ASSISTANCE OF LEGISLATION. I SINCERELY HOPE THE FRIENDS OF THE ARMY IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE WILL JOIN WITH ME IN MAKING THE LOT OF ARMY PEOPLE BETTER IN 1956.

MY FINAL GOOD RESOLUTION IS ONE WHICH EMBRACES THE ENTIRE MISSION OF THE ARMY. THOSE OF US IN ARMY UNIFORM MUST RESOLVE, DURING THE COMING YEAR, TO INCREASE THE DETERRENT POWER OF AMERICA'S MILITARY MIGHT SO AS TO RESTRAIN WAR IN ALL ITS FORMS. THE ARMY SEES ITS MISSION PRIMARILY AS THAT OF DETERRING WAR; SECONDARILY, THAT OF WINNING WAR. WE FEEL THAT WE ARE DETERRING WAR BY OUR DEPLOYMENTS OVERSEAS WHERE THE AMERICAN SOLDIER IS A VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THE DETERMINATION OF AMERICA TO RESIST FURTHER AGGRESSION. WE ARE DETERRING WAR OVERSEAS BY OUR MILITARY MISSIONS WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN TRAINING FOREIGN TROOPS IN COUNTRIES THREATENED BY POSSIBLE AGGRESSION. IT IS OFTEN FORGOTTEN THAT THE UNITED STATES ARMY IS THE GREATEST TRAINING ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD -- WITH OVER 200 FOREIGN DIVISIONS

RECEIVING INSTRUCTION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM OUR OFFICERS AND MEN.

TODAY, THERE IS AN UNPRECEDENTED REQUIREMENT TO HAVE ARMY FORCES IN BEING AND READY TO FIGHT UNDER A WIDE VARIETY OF CONDITIONS. THIS REQUIREMENT ARISES FROM THE POTENTIAL ENEMY THREAT ON THE GROUND. WHILE SOVIET AND SATELLITE GROUND FORCES MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY THREATEN THIS CONTINENT, THEIR FORMIDABLE FORCES CONSTITUTE POTENTIAL THREAT TO OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE AND ASIA. IN NUMBERS THE COMMUNIST ARMIES VASTLY OUTNUMBER THOSE OF THE FREE WORLD. QUALITY-WISE THE COMMUNIST FORCES ARE BEING CONSTANTLY IMPROVED IN ORGANIZATION AND IN WEAPONS. THERE ARE OVER FIVE MILLION MEN UNDER ARMS IN THE USSR, EAST GERMANY, AND IN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN SATELLITE NATIONS. APPROXIMATELY

3-1/2 MILLION OF THESE ARE GROUND FORCES. BEYOND THIS STRENGTH IN BEING, RUSSIA AND HER EUROPEAN SATELLITES HAVE A MOBILIZATION CAPACITY TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES TO ABOUT 375 DIVISIONS IN THE FIELD BY M PLUS 30. THE SOVIET BLOC NATIONS CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ARMIES BY MODERNIZATION.

THE PEACETIME 175 DIVISIONS OF SOVIET RUSSIA AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST ARMY, MODERNIZED INTO APPROXIMATELY 150 DIVISIONS, REPRESENT CAPACITY FOR BOTH ATOMIC OR NON-ATOMIC AGGRESSION WHICH THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES MUST BE PREPARED TO DETER.

THE AMERICAN ARMY MUST ACHIEVE GREATER COMBAT READINESS TO DETER NOT ONLY THE BIG WAR, BUT ALSO THE SMALL WAR WHICH MAY OCCUR ANY PLACE ABOUT THE WORLD. THAT IS WHY WE ARE STRESSING SO MUCH THE AIR TRANSPORTABILITY

AND STRATEGIC MOBILITY WHICH ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR A PROMPT REACTION TO UNEXPECTED AGGRESSION. WE FEEL THAT THE SMALL WAR MUST BE DETERRED, OR WON QUICKLY; OTHERWISE, IT MAY EXTEND TO THE BIG WAR WHICH WOULD BE DISASTER TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

THE ARMY RECOGNIZES THAT DETERRENCE MUST BE TRI-DIMENSIONAL -- IN THE AIR, ON THE SEA, AND ON THE GROUND. IT CAN RESULT ONLY FROM THE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AND TEAM PLAY OF ALL THREE SERVICES. IN 1956 THE ARMY RESOLVES TO CONTINUE TO BE A GOOD PARTNER TO OUR SISTER SERVICES. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER, THROUGH OUR COOPERATION, TO MAKE EASIER THE JOB OF THE AIRMAN, THE SAILOR, AND THE MARINE IN TIME OF WAR. WE ONLY BESPEAK IN RETURN A SIMILAR ATTITUDE FOR THE SOLDIER WHOSE ROLE IN WAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE HARDEST IN THE PAST AND IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I THINK THE ARMY HAS A GREAT DEAL TO BE THANKFUL FOR IN 1955. I FEEL THAT THERE IS INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE ARMY, THAT THERE IS LESS PRECLUSIVE ATTENTION PAID TO THE AIR-NUCLEAR THREAT, AND GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE DANGERS OF THE "ONE SHORT WAR" CONCEPT. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN CONVINCING AMERICANS OF THE NEED FOR VERSATILITY OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE APPLICATION OF OUR MILITARY POWER. MOREOVER, 1955 HAS BEEN A YEAR FOR THANKSGIVING FOR ME TO HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO WORK IN COMPANY WITH THE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF LOYAL ARMY PEOPLE STATIONED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEY ARE A GALLANT COMPANY DESERVING WELL OF THE NATION.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN ME IN WISHING THEM, AS I WISH YOU OF THE PRESS, A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR -- AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROSPERITY, A YEAR OF PEACE.

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