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November 5, 1959

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Dr. H. P. Robertson, Chairman  
Panel on Weapons Technology for  
Limited Warfare  
President's Science Advisory Committee  
The White House  
Washington 25, D. C.

No OSD objection to  
declassification  
subject to NSC  
concurrency

Dear Dr. Robertson:

I enclose six copies each of the presentations made by General Trudeau and General Oakes to the Panel on Weapons Technology for Limited Warfare on 22 October 1959. The Army is placing particular emphasis on research and development problems associated with limited war and we welcomed an opportunity to discuss these with your committee. Some of the more important points to which I would like to see attention directed include:

a. Definition:

While the term limited war has many connotations, the Army cannot differentiate between those weapons and weapons systems which have unique application to limited war to the exclusion of general war. While it is possible to list weapons and/or R&D programs which have no application to limited war, i.e., CONUS Defense, it does not appear possible to think in terms of R&D programs which have exclusively a limited war application.

b. Air Support:

The Army is making a concerted effort to improve mobility and fire power of its ground forces with particular application to their limited war use. In this connection, it becomes increasingly important for the Army to improve its close air-support capability, both in terms of tactics and logistics. As Secretary Brucker pointed out during his FY 61 Budget Presentation, the Air Force efforts in the fields of both tactical and strategic air support are at a very low level and the Army is greatly concerned with this situation.

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Attached 3

c. Wilson Memorandum:

The Wilson Memorandum of November 26, 1956, both practically and psychologically has had an adverse influence on the Army's limited war capability and its current validity is certainly subject to serious questions.

d. National Policy on BW/CW:

The Army is currently receiving generous financial support in the BW/CW field. This is an area to which I intend to direct particular attention and in which I am greatly concerned with the need for a well-managed and orderly R&D program. There still appear to be many psychological problems associated with appropriate development of weapons systems and U. S. policy inhibits both their development and ultimate use. I believe these problems could be avoided by separate consideration of BW and CW by the National Security Council. The following suggested NSC policy along these lines was expressed in my letter of November 5, 1959, to Dr. Howard A. Wilcox, Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering:

"a. Biological Warfare: Because of known and extensive development by the USSR in the field of biological weapons, it is essential that the United States recognize the possibility of the use of such agents by the USSR in the event of any form of armed conflict. While the United States has expressed its abhorrence to the use of biological weapons, it is essential, in the light of the USSR activities to develop a strong U. S. defensive and retaliatory capability.

"b. Chemical Warfare - Non-Lethal Agents: Non-lethal or incapacitating chemical agents offer potentially a unique capability for achieving military success without permanent damage to personnel or property. It is essential that the U. S. develop such weapons in order to substantially enhance the military capability of the U. S. for both limited and total warfare.

(Signed) R. S. Morse

Richard S. Morse  
Director of Research and Development

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