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ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

~~NATO SECRET~~
RDC/58/60

To : Secretaries of Delegations

From : Executive Secretary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON IRBMs

The following memorandum has been received from the Standing Group Representative and is circulated for the information of Delegations:

"1. I informed the Council at its meeting on 29th January that I would make available some additional information on the subject of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles.

"2. Certain information has already been released by SACEUR to the Press which is reproduced under "SHAPE NEWS" in the January NATO LETTER. The information which has been made public points out that SACEUR is planning an initial deployment of 6 squadrons of 15 missiles each and with strength of 500 men each. It also states that there is no military requirement to deploy IRBMs in any particular NATO location, and in fact that it is not desirable to place them in every NATO country. It emphasizes that IRBMs will become operational before the Soviets effectively challenge the superiority of manned bombers. Finally, it shows that the introduction of IRBMs does not minimize the importance of other forces, either retaliatory or shield forces.

"3. In addition to the unclassified information I refer to above I can add the following facts which are classified SECRET and are supplementary to that given to the Council by General Norstad in December 1957.

"4. The Standing Group has indicated to SACEUR that the introduction of IRBMs, which he is currently studying, should not be considered in isolation but should be examined in relation to the overall aircraft and missile weapons systems programmed for NATO.

"5. Each IRBM squadron will have 5 launch positions for the launching of its 15 operational missiles and will be organized to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Of its 500 personnel, one half will be technically qualified. Each launch position will require about 60 acres of land, including areas for access roads and safety clearances.

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"6. The estimated costs of an IRBM squadron is 47 to 48 million dollars broken down as follows:-

15 missiles and support equipment	£ 38 million
Spare parts for the first year	4 million
Initial training	4 million
Construction of technical facilities	1.5 to 2 million

This latter figure does not include the hardening of sites to reduce vulnerability which should be undertaken as soon as possible.

"7. Spare parts costs for each year after the first are estimated at £2 million and the annual operating cost per squadron is approximately £5.3 million.

"8. The technical and cost data given above have been made available to SACEUR by the United States and have been furnished by him to Ministries of Defence on a need to know basis."

(Signed) COLERIDGE

31st January, 1958.

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