

~~TOP SECRET~~

**MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT**  
**July 24, 1963 -- 10:00 AM**

**Others present: General Taylor**  
**General Wheeler**  
**Admiral Anderson**  
**General LeMay**  
**General Shoup**  
**Captain Shepard**  
**General McHugh**

**SIOP**

The Chairman presented to the President a new book which contains a complete summary of the SIOP, highlighting decisions required for its implementation. The President asked a number of questions and all the Chiefs participated in the discussion. The Chairman emphasized the extreme sensitivity of this document, stating there were only eight copies in existence.

**ARMY SPECIAL FORCES**

General Wheeler presented to the President the reply to a memorandum which the President had written to the Secretary of Defense on the employment of Army Special Forces. The President stated he thought that the size of the groups being sent was too small to take maximum advantage of the favorable impression they create. General Wheeler stated that the limiting factor on the number of forces employed was often the opposition of the U.S. Ambassador concerned. The President stated that he would communicate with the Ambassadors. (A copy of the President's memorandum on this subject to the Secretary of State is attached.)

General LeMay stated that he and the Chiefs of Staffs of Latin American Air Forces favor bringing their personnel to the U.S. for training. He also stated that there is a general consensus on the need for increased inter-American planning. He stated that the Inter-American Defense

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Board is unsatisfactory for this purpose. To make it effective, it should be placed under the OAS, and its personnel changed.

### BUDGET

The President inquired about the status of Service budgets on the Hill. He stressed that, in cases of cuts, Service chiefs should stress to their friends in Congress the numbers and types of weapons being lost by such cuts, not the dollar loss.

### TEST BAN

The President gave a summary of his view of the test ban, concluding that we cannot reduce our military readiness if an accord is reached, for the whole situation could turn around in six months. The President emphasized that on advising him on the test ban, all chiefs should base their positions on the broadest political considerations, not just military factors. The President authorized the Chairman to provide a working copy of the test ban agreement to each Chief, with minimum disclosure required.

### GOLD FLOW

There was a brief discussion of the gold flow. The President recognized the seeming unfairness of continuing to demand ways for the Department of Defense to make savings, when there is little or no effort in other areas. He pointed out, however, that for the Government to put the pressure on private sectors, the military and aid areas must first be cut to the bone.

The Chiefs expressed opinions on short term rotation of forces in lieu of longer term deployments.

### MLF

Admiral Anderson told the President that the President's proposal for a NATO mixed manned surface ship can be implemented. A plan is now being developed for a guided missile destroyer, 51% U.S.-Manned; language English; crew members paid by individual governments; to operate adjacent to and visit Northern Europe as well as Mediterranean ports.

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Taylor

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Memos from  
President  
(1963)

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