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TOP SECRET

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter of December 22, 1955, notifying this Department of the requirement established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for storage of atomic weapons in Metropolitan France and Italy, and to my interim reply of January 24, 1956. The question of storage of atomic weapons in Metropolitan France is at present under discussion between our staffs.

Ambassador Luce has discussed the proposed deployment of atomic weapons to Italy with Minister of Defense Taviani. The Italian Minister of Defense has assured the Ambassador that the United States has full authority to proceed with the proposed deployment. Ambassador Luce recommends that we proceed without further discussion with the Italian Government.

I concur with the proposed deployment of atomic weapons to Italy. I note that your letter of December 22, 1955, states that the Department will be notified in advance of the initial deployment date of any special weapons to Italy. When this deployment has taken place, the Department plans to authorize Ambassador Luce to inform General Mancinelli, the Chief of Staff, concerning the general location of sites, if she deems this necessary in the light of her conversation with Taviani.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN FOSTER DULLES

John Foster Dulles

The Honorable
Charles E. Wilson,
Secretary of Defense.

*1-9 #2 - Kelly
3 - NK - Italy
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