

SECRET

This document consists of 2 pages
No. 5 of 8 Copies, Series A

Krea

May 16, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERTSON

**Subject: Modernization of United States
Forces in Korea**

1. I have read Mr. Parson's memorandum to you on this subject, drafted May 14, 1957.

2. S/P continues to support the introduction of more modern and more effective non-nuclear weapons for both US forces in Korea and ROK forces. These can include planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons. These we continue to believe are justifiable under a flexible and realistic interpretation of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

3. I remain opposed to introducing nuclear weapons into Korea.

(a) Even on the proposed rationale--to redress the military balance--there has been no showing that Communist strength in North Korea has been increased to an extent requiring us to station nuclear weapons in Korea. We have assertions of a Communist air force buildup. How the proposed nuclear weapons counter this is not apparent. We know that substantial reductions in Communist ground forces have taken place.

(b) The security of the Republic of Korea depends on its treaty relationship with the US. Stationing a few nuclear weapons in Korea will not enhance this security, especially since aircraft with nuclear capability will be available under the agreed parts of the program. To the contrary, the introduction of such weapons may well stimulate an arms race in Korea, and make more difficult the creation of conditions leading to gradual further reductions in the support costs of ROK forces.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 700154

SECRET

-2-

(e) Many nations will not consider our action as justified by any showing we ^{can} make and may interpret it as a further sign of our effort to heighten tensions. The political costs, both in the free world and in the Soviet bloc, seem to me far in excess of any supposed military benefits.

Robert R. Bowie

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority ND700154

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu