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TO : FE - Mr. Robertson

DATE: **MAY 16 1958**

FROM : NA - Mr. Parsons

WEP
BUREAU OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
MAY 16 1958
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Department of State

SUBJECT: **British Request for Information Regarding Atomic-Capable Weapons in Korea.**

795b.5611

Mr. de la Mare of the British Embassy asked me for certain information regarding atomic-capable weapons in Korea, specifically whether atomic warheads are stored in Korea and whether atomic-capable weapons have been given to the Koreans, in order to assist the Foreign Office in replying to press inquiries and also for use, if necessary, in the House of Commons. I explained our policy to Mr. de la Mare orally regarding atomic warheads, i.e., neither to deny nor to confirm their presence in any other country, and at the same time provided him with some other clarifications on this subject which he requested.

Although I pointed out to Mr. de la Mare that we would prefer not to receive a written request for the above information and that, if asked, our reply would be along the lines of my oral comments, Mr. de la Mare wrote to me on March 11, 1958 asking these same questions (Tab B). With your approval, I propose to hand Mr. de la Mare the attached memorandum in reply to his letter (Tab A). The memorandum restates our policy with respect to information on the presence of atomic warheads in other countries and notes, in response to Mr. de la Mare's query, that it cannot be categorically stated that atomic-capable weapons have not been given to the Koreans. The memorandum also confirms a statement by General Decker that whatever units are available to support U. S. forces would also support ROK and other UNC forces.

Recommendation:

That you approve my handing Mr. de la Mare the attached memorandum and that you clear the memorandum.

Approved *WEP*

Disapproved _____

Attachments:

- Tab A - Memorandum.
- Tab B - From Mr. de la Mare, March 11, 1958

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FE - Mr. Parsons

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