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1964/01/16

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

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ROUTINE

AF IN : 37505 (17 Jan 64) S/jmh

ACTION: CCS-3 -4-

FROM : SAC

TO : CSAF

NR : CINC 0328

162325Z Jan 64

FOR LEMAY FROM POWER. FEASIBILITY OF PEACETIME LAUNCH FOR ICBM OPERATIONAL SITES. THIS MESSAGE IN TWO PARTS.

PART 1. I am deeply concerned that a recent JCS Paper (JCSM-765-63, dated 4 Oct 1963) concluded that launching Minuteman Missiles from existing operational sites is not acceptable, due to safety and International Political considerations. In view of the importance of determining true reliability of our ECBM systems, I urge a reevaluation of the JCS position. I am advised that the Air Force concluded safety risks involved in liquid fueled ICBM operational site launches are acceptable. It should be noted that the proposed Minuteman launch from Malmstrom AFB is less hazardous than either the Atlas "F" or the Titan II. In view of the success of the Minuteman demonstration and shakedown operation (DASO) tests and the operational test (OT) program at Vandenberg AFB, it is my opinion that system reliability can no longer be considered a limiting factor.

PART 2. I solicit your personal support in expediting approval from JCS and DOD for conducting launches from operational sites. It is further requested that I be advised of DOD reaction to the JCS paper on operational site launchings. (GP-4)

BT

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