

## BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

August 24, 1960

NEW DISARMAMENT ORGANIZATION IN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The President will recall that Acting Secretary Dillon sent him, on Monday, August 22, 1960, a memorandum with suggested letters to the heads of the agencies concerned in regard to a proposed new United States Disarmament Administration to be set up by the Department of State, in accordance with the President's initiative.

The Department of State has released no information on this subject pending decision by the White House on publicity. There have, however, been a few signs of press and Senatorial interest (see Senator Humphrey's remarks, Congressional Record of July 2, 1960, p. 14556).

A White House press release, issued following appropriate notice to the agencies concerned, would appear to be the best form of announcement, if any is made. If, however, a question is raised in the meantime at the press conference, a reply on the following lines is suggested:

Question:

What is being done in the Department of State to strengthen the Government effort in the disarmament field in preparation for future disarmament talks?

Answer:

I have continued to give this matter considerable thought and at my request the Secretary of State is developing plans in cooperation with the other Departments and Agencies concerned.

I understand this planning is now well advanced.

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 FOLDER Press Conference 8/24/60