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February 18, 1960

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Discussion at the 435th Meeting
of the National Security Council,
Thursday, February 18, 1960

Present at the 435th NSC Meeting were the President of the United States, presiding (for Item 1); Christian A. Herter, Secretary of State, presiding (for Items 2,3 and 4); Thomas S. Gates, Jr., Secretary of Defense; and Leo A. Hoegh, Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization. Also attending the Council meeting and participating in the Council actions below were Fred Scribner, Jr., for the Secretary of the Treasury, Maurice A. Stans, Director, Bureau of the Budget; and John A. McCone, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (Item 1); Also attending the meeting were General Nathan F. Twining, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Lyman Lemnitzer, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations; General Thomas S. White, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence; George V. Allen, Director, U.S. Information Agency; Maj. General Wilton B. Persons, The Assistant to the President; Gordon Gray, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Karl G. Harr, Jr., Special Assistant to the President for Security Operations Co-ordination; George B. Kistiakowsky, Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; Brig. General Andrew J. Goodpaster, White House Staff Secretary; Gerard C. Smith, Assistant Secretary of State; from the Department of Defense - Dr. Herbert F. York, John N. Irwin, II, Samuel Clements, and Lt.Col. Edward V. Needels; James S. Lay, Jr., Executive Secretary, NSC; Marion W. Boggs, Deputy Executive Secretary, NSC; and Charles Haskins, NSC.

There follows a summary of the discussion at the meeting and the main points taken.

1. TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NON-LETHAL WEAPONS AND DOCTRINE FOR POSSIBLE USE

(NSC Action No. 2105-d; NSC 5906/1, paragraph 13)

Mr. Gray briefed the Council on the background, recalling the 1950 policy that the US will undertake gas warfare only in retaliation against its use by an enemy and the present policy, dating

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Secretary Herter said the Department of State wanted to wait until after the Italian municipal elections to review the policy paper because it did not want to prepare two papers so close together. Mr. Scribner said he was concerned about the situation in Italy, including the possibility that Italy might begin asking for gold from the US in payment of the large and rapidly increasing dollar balances held by Italy as a result of its world-wide trade transactions. There were a number of factors which should be brought before the Planning Board. US policy toward Italy was an old one; many developments since its adoption should be carefully examined. Secretary Herter said his only objective was to avoid a proliferation of papers. If Treasury had specific recommendations he would be glad to consider them, but he did not want to look at the entire Italian policy paper at this time. Mr. Scribner said he did not know what changes would be required, but he would like an opportunity to examine the paper in the Planning Board and see if any changes were necessary. Mr. Stans suggested that the Planning Board might start work on a revision of NSC 5411/2 now, but should not submit it to the Council for consideration until the results of the Italian municipal elections had been assessed. Secretary Herter said he had no objection to the procedure suggested by Mr. Stans.

The National Security Council:

- a. Discussed the timing of a review of NSC 5411/2 on the subject, in the light of the discussion under Item 2 above.
- b. Agreed that the NSC Planning Board could proceed with a review of NSC 5411/2, with the understanding that a complete revision should not be submitted for Council consideration until the results of the forthcoming Italian municipal elections have been taken into account. Meanwhile, if the Planning Board believes that any specific amendments to NSC 5411/2 are required before the results of these elections, such amendments may be submitted for Council consideration.

4. SIGNIFICANT WORLD DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING U.S. SECURITY

Mr. Dulles reported that the French nuclear test in the Sahara



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Mr. Dulles then reported that reaction in various countries to the French nuclear test had been violent. Ghana for example had frozen \$14 million in French assets and was pressing Liberia and Guinea for a coordinated severance of diplomatic relations with Paris. The Ghana press had made violent remarks not only about France but also about the US and UK because the latter had not stopped the French test. Morocco and the UAR, supported by Tunisia and Ghana, were pressing for UN action on the French test but other Asian and African states were cool to this idea. Morocco had abrogated its 1956 Accord with France and had called its ambassador to Paris home. Japan had entered a formal protest over the nuclear test and Indonesia had denounced it informally.

Secretary Herter said he had heard from one source that the nuclear cloud was being carried southeast by the wind and had heard from another source that it would arrive over Japan. He wondered how the cloud would get to Japan if it was traveling southeast. Secretary Gates thought that the prevailing upper winds were blowing toward Japan and as soon as the cloud reached these upper winds it would go in the direction of Japan.

Turning to Cuba, Mr. Dulles reported that Mikoyan's visit had marked the definite espousal of Castro by the USSR. Cuba and the USSR had signed a trade agreement by which the USSR had extended \$100 million in trade credits. The two countries had also agreed to collaborate in the UN and would probably resume diplomatic relations soon. Cuba was selling five million tons of sugar to the USSR over the next three years, one-fifth of which was to be paid for in cash. Cuba had also agreed to take Soviet goods which would constitute ten per cent of Cuban foreign trade. The USSR was also supplying Soviet technicians to Cuba. Reports of the agreements between Cuba and the USSR had made no mention of the question of Soviet arms being supplied to Cuba. Mikoyan was understood to have expressed a willingness to provide aircraft to Cuba if requested. When Mikoyan made a speech at a rice cooperative concerning the assistance which the USSR would give to Cuba, the crowd had shouted "and guns and planes too" and Mikoyan had repeated "and guns and planes too." Mr. Dulles thought, however, that provision of MIGs to Cuba by the USSR would be a development favorable to the US, since it would unmask Soviet intentions toward Cuba.

