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*Col. Paul, CC-8*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AFCAC

DECISION

SUBJ: (S) SAC Airborne Alert Plan

DATE: 31 March 1959

TO: DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, OPERATIONS

1. The Chief of Staff approves:

a. Further testing of the Airborne Alert Concept by the Strategic Air Command during the remainder of FY 1959 in order to refine the concept and obtain additional data.

b. Continued study of the SAC Airborne Alert Plan by the Air Staff.

2. It was noted that:

a. The Airborne Alert Concept provides for 68 B-52 type aircraft on continuous airborne alert by 1 July 1961.

b. Extension of Airborne Alert will require Presidential approval.

c. The requirement for an Airborne Alert will remain until such time as a warning system can be developed which will provide the necessary warning time for the ground alert force.

3. It is desired that emphasis be continued towards providing an adequate Ballistic Missile Early Warning System.

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CURTIS E. LEMAY  
General, U. S. Air Force  
Vice Chief of Staff

AFC 6/200

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