MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: SAC Concentration in U. S. and Reaction Time (as of above date)

1. Current Composition of SAC
   a. Heavy bombers
      4 wings - fully equipped (45 aircraft each) of B-52 class
      1 wing - in process of equipping (34 aircraft) of B-52 class
      1 wing - converting to B-52 class *
      5 wings - (30 aircraft each) of B-36 class
      11 wings
   b. Medium bombers
      29 wings (45 aircraft each) of B-47 class
      39 wings (1650 aircraft) TOTAL

2. Current SAC Bases in U. S.
   a. Heavy bomber
      11 operational
      16 under construction (funded in FY's 1956-58; scheduled progressively for completion not later than June 30, 1960)
      6 additional desired by AF for optimum
   b. Medium bomber
      10 operational
      29 bases operational TOTAL

* Will begin receiving 15 B-52s a month in November.
3. Current Basing of SAC in U.S. (as of October 22)

a. At 5 SAC bases there are 214 of the B-52 class, located in varying numbers (not over 45 aircraft at one base). Of these 214, 119 (assigned in current war plan) are located at these 4 SAC bases:

   Castle (California)
   Westover (Massachusetts)
   Loring (Maine)
   Fairchild (Washington)

As additional B-52s are received and crews attain combat readiness, they will be entered in the war plan.

b. The B-36 wings are principally located at 7 SAC bases, other than the 4 mentioned above.

c. The 28 wings (1260 aircraft) of the B-47 class are located (except for aircraft engaged in overseas maneuvers) at 13 SAC bases, other than the 11 mentioned above.


Within 30 minutes (overseas) to two hours (in the U.S.A.), the following aircraft could be got in the air, loaded with their weapons:

   8 B-52 class - Heavy Bomber
   9 B-36 class - Heavy Bomber
   117 B-47 class - Medium Bomber
   134 TOTAL

The number which can be got in the air under surprise conditions — within the times specified — is limited by (a) trained personnel for constant alert and (b) base facilities.

5. Turnover of Trained Enlisted AF Personnel.

During the period January - August, 1957, the re-enlistment rate in SAC for first-termers was:

   Radio and communications: ....... 25.2%
   Armaments and electronics: ....... 34.5%
   Aircraft maintenance: ............ 22.1%

During the same period, the re-enlistment rate for jet-engine mechanics (all-termers combined) was 21.7%.