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OUTGOING MESSAGE  
(By Special Means)

25 July 1961

TO: DA

PRIORITY

TO SHAPE LN PERSONAL FOR LCOL GEORGE FROM GEN NORSTAD.

Please deliver following to The White House by 0830 hours  
Washington time today.

"Dear Mr. President:

"Your letter of 21 July was most welcome. This indication of your attitude and your general policy on the Berlin crisis will provide valuable guidance to me in both my U. S. and NATO capacities. Your expression of confidence was indeed generous; it will strengthen me in my task.

"We have just completed two days of consultation with Mr. McNamara and General Lemnitzer covering some aspects of long-range planning, but concentrating particularly on improving our posture in the immediate future. These meetings were most useful and stimulating from our standpoint, and I hope that the Secretary of Defense will feel that the time was well spent. Among the subjects discussed at some length was the requirement for a mid-range atomic strike capability.

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| DECLASSIFIED                             |                          |
| Authority State Dept. Subject Guidelines |                          |
| By <u>OSH</u>                            | NLE Date <u>11/28/76</u> |

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This included consideration of the entire field covered by POLARIS, by extended-range PERSHINGs, or by weapons which could be designed particularly for employment in a European and Allied context. I am quite satisfied that Mr. McNamara and General Lemnitzer fully understand our needs in this field. It is certainly correct that a solution to this problem will not be easily or quickly found, but, as you say, it will in due time be considered by the NATO Council and, in the meantime, it should not be permitted to obscure the need for increased unity and strength in the immediate future.

"The actions you propose to take to improve the position of the United States and the Alliance at this critical time, and the manner in which they are to be carried out, will create strength without provocation, and will reflect the calm determination of a concerned but confident people. It is unnecessary for me to say that you have the fullest support of every American serving in this area.

"Faithfully,

(signed) LAURIS NORSTAD  
General, USAF"

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