

NO REASON TO FEAR ANY NATION SEEN

General Believes This Country Has Strength To Deter Attack

By RODNEY CROWTHER.

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 9 — Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, today took strong issue with those military men and other citizens who have been loudly insisting that the United States is growing weaker as Russia grows stronger.

He told the combined Senate Preparedness and Space committees that it is his "personal view" that this nation has the strength to deter a Russian attack now and in the "foreseeable future."

"I just do not believe that any nation possesses today or in the foreseeable future the capability to attack us or destroy us without suffering unacceptable damage to themselves," he said.

"No Reason To Fear"

"We have no reason to fear any nation. I am not afraid of Russia."

Later the General told the committee that he doesn't believe Russia is preparing "to jump on us."

As to whether the 1961 budget is based on a proper interpretation of this country's intelligence with respect to Russia and her existing missile strength, Twining said he believes it is soundly based.

But Senator Symington (D., Mo.), holding in his hands a piece of paper on which he said were written intelligence estimates provided the committee in secret session by Allen W. Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, insisted that the military people are telling a different story about Russia's strength from that told by Dulles.

Twining refused to be drawn into public discussion of the comparative strengths of the two nations as to missiles completed and on launching sites.

"I believe in our national intelligence estimates," Twining told the committee. He said he is briefed on them daily "and not just once a year; it is a continuous process."

Symington asked Twining whether the Joint Chiefs did not know at the time Dulles testified, January 29, the comparative figures of Russian long-range missiles and United States long-range missiles for last year and this year.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs, after being shown the paper Symington produced, said "We did not know last year's figures" and gave the committee the impression that certain intelligence information had not been given to the defense establishment.

Closed Session

"We can't straighten it out here," he insisted and the committee later went into closed session to try to find out whether the truth is that Russia has less missiles in being and on site than was originally thought and

whether the gap between this country and Russia has been narrowed.

Late in the day it was announced that the committee had deferred testimony by Thomas S. Gates, Jr., Secretary of Defense, pending further testimony by Dulles.

The decision was made after General Twining testified in closed session on intelligence estimates. According to Chairman Johnson (D., Texas), the deferment was granted at the request of minority members of the committee.

"Confusion Cited"

"It was felt," Johnson's office said in a short statement, "that confusion arising from Dulles's recent testimony and today's testimony by General Twining should be clarified before Secretary Gates's appearance."

Gates had been tentatively scheduled to testify tomorrow.

During his appearance before the senators today, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs:

1. Disagreed with the Administration decision to postpone development of the B-70 as a bomber.

He said present bombers will be obsolete and worn out in a half dozen years at which time the B-70 would be very important. He said the Joint Chiefs were divided over the necessity for the supersonic plans.

2. Disagreed with the recommendation of Gen. Thomas S. Power, commander of the Strategic Air Command, that a full-time air alert be launched by SAC bombers as quickly as possible.

Twining favors developing the capability for an air alert on a moments notice but not for a 24-hour alert year in and year out.

3. Disagreed with Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations, that six additional Polaris submarines should be added to the three already provided for in the 1961 budget.

4. Disagreed with Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer that the airlift "is one of the weakest links in the nation's defense chain."

"It's not as good as we would like it to be, but I would not call it a weak link. There are no weak links," Twining said.

"No Real Merit"

5. Disagreed emphatically and completely with the criticisms and programs propounded by the former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor (ret.). He said he had great respect for Taylor as a fine soldier but "found no real merit in his proposals."

During the hassle between Senator Symington and Twining as to the intelligence estimates of Russian missile strength, two republican members of the committee, Senator Saltonstall (Mass.) and Senator Bush (Conn.) strongly deplored the frequency with which secret information has lately become public property.

Meanwhile, Representative Halleck (R., Ind.), House Republican leader, said, after GOP leaders had met with the President in the White House, that some Democratic Presidential candidates seem "more interested in making headlines than making headway."

He said he didn't think they could "convince the American people that the United States is a second-rate power."

Names Mentioned

Halleck was asked whether he was referring to Senators Johnson (D., Texas) and Symington, both named as Presidential hopefuls and both vigorous critics of the Administration's defense program.

"You know who they are," Halleck replied.

Later Senator Dirkin (R., Ill.), the GOP Senate leader, also said he is "pretty disturbed" over publication of Russia's missile figures which were given in secret session by Dulles.

Dirksen quoted a Washington newsman who wrote in his column last Friday that "the hard, disturbing facts and figures in the testimony of the director of the

Central Intelligence Agency, Allen W. Dulles, before the Senate Space Committee, can now be revealed on undoubted authority."

"Who is the undoubted authority?" Dirksen asked the Senate.

The question of leaking information, meanwhile, had engaged the attention of the Space and Preparedness Committee members who said they, too, were worried about secret information getting out.

Symington said he had not given out the information and he told the other senators: "I've seen four separate lists — all understating the Russian capacity and our own. I am sorry figures have become public."

Senator Bush said that "too much critical information is being disclosed to our enemies," and he asked General Twining for his views on the matter.

"Always Seem To Get Out"

"It is extremely difficult to know where to draw the line," the general replied. "The public needs and is entitled to certain information." He then said that it is not only things told to Congress that leak.

"No matter where we meet in the world, things always seem to get out," he said.

"But we do have some secrets that have not leaked out yet," he told the committee and everybody laughed heartily.

While the senators were interrogating Twining regarding United States military strength, the House Space Committee heard Vice Adm. John T. Hayward, the Navy's chief of research and development, describe as "disgraceful" any attempts to "downgrade" this country's achievements.

He denied that there is any "missile mess," but he admitted that funds for his special activities had been cut in the 1960 budget from \$1,359,000,000 to \$1,169,000,000.