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MR. WHITEHEAD

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1/11/16

November 16, 1971

Col. Jiggetts

Charles C. Joyce, Jr. /S/

SAC Briefings

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 15 2013

I suggest that briefings and discussion sessions be set up at SAC capable of providing the Director with the information pertinent to the following questions:

1. What options are provided to the President in the execution of the SIOP? How is the SIOP structured to achieve this? What does it take to develop and implement a strategic nuclear strike which is not pre-planned?

2. How survivable and reliable are the communications links between the President and strategic forces? What is the capability for recall? What improvements to present systems are being considered?

3. What are the capabilities for attack assessment, and for getting the information needed to select an option? What communications systems are involved? What improvements are being considered?

4. What are the capabilities for U.S. damage assessment and second strike option selection? For second strike retargeting? What communications systems are involved? Do present communications facilities limit flexibility or response time? What improvements are being considered?

5. What are the capabilities for assessing damage to the enemy, determining enemy residual forces, and U.S. restrike planning? What are the limiting factors -- Communications vs. Sensors vs. Data evaluation and planning facilities? What improvements are being considered?

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These are of course fairly direct questions and you should consider how best to get SAC to cover the points we want without stirring up a hornets nest. I'd like to get your assessment of how much of this we can get from SAC on this visit.

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cc: Mr. Whitehead

*Chuck: Let's discuss
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