

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes Mr. Hechler.

Mr. HECHLER. Mr. Secretary, following up my question about protecting the competence in communications of the Army, I just wanted to make absolutely sure as a result of this directive that sufficient safeguards are written in, in practice, and are utilized in practice, so that the Air Force does not impinge on the role of the Army in communications.

I wonder if you would care to comment on how that can be insured.

Secretary STAHR. It can best be assured by clear-cut separate directive, I would think. However, it is important to remember that, as Mr. Gilpatrick testified, I believe, existing programs are really not involved in this directive, so that the problem you are bringing up is one which we would either have or not have, whether or not this directive had been written.

Mr. HECHLER. I just wanted to raise a little red flag.

Secretary STAHR. I appreciate that and I have one flying, myself.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Teague—

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Secretary, the thing that scares me about this whole situation is that there is an implication of haste, an implication of not telling the whole story.

It seems to me this question is important enough—and as I say, I can't say whether I am for it or against it for three years and we can't wait that long.

It seems to me this is important enough that the Chiefs of Staff would have considered it from A to Z, and it would have gone to the President, himself.

Do you know whether or not the President considered this question or not?

Secretary STAHR. I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Miller—Mr. Morris.

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Secretary, I don't know either whether this is a good directive or will not be good for the country. Apparently the word of the official statements before this committee will be that it is going to be good for the country.

The thing that disturbs me about the directive is that the previous position of the Army, that they should have a role in space, and the fact that they surrendered without firing a shot somewhere concerns me about the directive.

Secretary STAHR. Shots were fired. They are not reflected in the directive, sir.

Mr. MORRIS. You mean before the directive.

Secretary STAHR. I beg your pardon?

Mr. MORRIS. You mean before the directive.

Secretary STAHR. No; I mean that the directive, itself, does not indicate what shots were fired during its consideration.

Mr. MORRIS. I see, but as far as you and the Army are concerned now, the thing is finished and this is going to be good for the country and we are going to make it good for the country.

Secretary STAHR. Well, I will certainly take the last part of that. We intend to make it good for the country; we intend to do our very best to make it work effectively.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Mr. MORRIS. Just a minute, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask another question: As I also understand it now, you have taken a firm