

Secretary CONNALLY. I think so, Congressman. I suppose the initial impact—I could not read people's minds but I am sure the initial impact had an effect on some people in the Navy but I think on sober reflection it must be apparent to anyone that the Navy has been in existence for a long time and the Navy is going to continue. There is not any question in my mind about that and I think the longer we go, the greater role the Navy is going to have in performing missions in defense of the United States and the free world.

Certainly no one would gainsay there is not ample opportunity within the Navy today for all the talents, brains, imagination we can possibly muster and we certainly are in a position to say to any man young or old that there are great potentialities and possibilities here, because we still maintain under this directive the prerogative of engaging in preliminary and basic research, which we certainly will do.

Mr. MILLER. I am glad to hear you say that, Mr. Secretary. I sincerely hope that you are right because I have the same admiration for the Navy and its accomplishments that you have and when I think that within its house the Navy, without any fanfare and trumpets, developed such things as the Sidewinder—

Secretary CONNALLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. MILLER (continuing). That has never been given in my mind the credit that it should be given. It stopped at least the brush fire for a while, in Formosa and stopped it cold in its tracks with about 6 missiles—

The CHAIRMAN. It prevented a war.

Secretary CONNALLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. MILLER. I happen to have been out there about the time these were being fired—

Secretary CONNALLY. Let me say this, Congressman. I think the Navy has without fanfare, made great contributions to nearly all of the programs in existence today. We started using the old V-2 back in the latter days of the war. We went from that to the Aerobee, back in 1946-1947; for many years the Navy has made great contributions. They have a great background of contributions and know-how in this field. There is nothing inherently in this directive that would preclude those abilities from continuing to contribute. This directive like anything else, sir, can be good or bad, largely depending upon how it is administered and therein, I think, lies the secret of it. I can not conceive—I have great admiration—and I say this publicly—for the Secretary of Defense for his fairness and his decisiveness and his objectivity.

We all are trying to do what we feel is best in the interest of the overall defense effort of this Nation.

Now, I would not be in the least reluctant, sir, to come before this committee and sound the cry of alarm if I felt that this directive or any other directive was being administered in such a fashion that the full capabilities of the Navy were not being used. I hope I never am in that position. At present I do not feel that I ever will be. But as I say, the question about the Navy's future actions will largely be determined, there is within this directive a framework and a pattern under which we can accomplish any desired objective.