

Military Order of Merit (Italy).
Cavalier of the Great Cross, Royal Crown of Italy (Italy).
Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun (Japan).
Order of Military Merit Taeguk (Korea).
Order of Military Merit Taeguk with Gold Star (Korea).
Presidential Unit Citation (Korea).
Gold Cross of Merit with Swords (Poland).
Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (Thailand).
Royal Order of the White Eagle, Class II (Yugoslavia).
Grande Oficial, Order of Military Merit (Brazil).

STATEMENT OF GEN. LYMAN L. LEMNITZER, CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

General LEMNITZER. Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to have this opportunity to appear before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics this morning. It is apparent that certain reports that have been carried by national news media have resulted in some misunderstandings, and I always welcome an opportunity to set the record straight. I hope my appearance before the committee this morning will accomplish this purpose. The facts are as follows:

On the 24th of February, 1961, I received a request dated 23 February from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense requesting my comments on a draft which revised a previous directive issued by Secretary McElroy, then Secretary of Defense, in September, 1959, and which established policies pertaining to and assigned responsibilities for military space activities. By that same memorandum from the General Counsel, the Service Secretaries and other Department of Defense officials were requested to submit their comments on the same draft directive.

In accordance with the General Counsel's request, I submitted my comments on the 2d of March, 1961. I would like to emphasize that this was several days *prior to* the date that the Secretary made his decision and issued the directive in final form.

This you will note is completely contrary to the impression given by whoever leaked my memorandum. The impression given by that individual was that my memorandum was sent directly to the Secretary *after*—and I repeat *after*—the Secretary made his decision on the subject directive and that I was protesting his decision. This is completely incorrect and raises the question in my mind as to the motive of the individual involved.

The particularly unfortunate aspect of this matter has been that it implies that there is a lack of close working relationship between the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I would like to assure this committee and the American public that these working relationships are extremely close and harmonious.

That completes my very brief opening statement, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. We thank you very much, General, for your statement. We would like to ask you a few questions. During the course of the hearings that we have had, the matter was brought out that perhaps there was a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of which you are chairman, prior to the issuance of that order and that certain recommendations may have been made. I would like to ask you about that. Is that correct?