

General LEMNITZER. Are you referring to the organization for the conduct of space activities within the Government at the present time?

Mr. MILLER. Within the military department, the Defense Department.

General LEMNITZER. As you know, Mr. Miller, when I was Chief of Staff of the Army we did not recommend precisely the type of organization which we have in existence today. But higher authorities, including the President, held the overall responsibility for determining the optimum over-all organization in order to move ahead in space. When the President made the decision to transfer the Von Braun team from the Army to NASA, Secretary Brucker and I indicated that we would wholeheartedly accede to and carry out that decision. We did. We made this transfer with a minimum, in fact, with no loss of time whatsoever.

From my information, the Von Braun team is doing the same superb job under NASA that it was doing under the Department of the Army.

Mr. MILLER. I think it is. I didn't have that in mind, particularly. Suppose the conception that you have—There is a new weapon that is brought to light. As an Army man, would you be happy in seeing that turned over to the Air Force to develop for you, or do you think the Army should have the development of that weapon, as you have the weapons that you have successfully developed in the past?

General LEMNITZER. First, I would like to say that I am not specifically assigned as a member of the Department of the Army today. I am Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As such, I am deeply interested in the best interests of all of our Services. With respect to the weapon systems a Service uses in combat, I think as a general principle, the development of those weapon systems should be assigned to the Service which will employ the weapon in combat.

I firmly believe in that as a general principle. I see nothing in this directive which goes contrary to that principle. This directive deals with the development of military space systems. I think the general way in which it is expressed suggests that the Secretary, based upon the advice and guidance provided by his staff, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will make his decisions assigning responsibilities for space activities in the future based on primary interest and competency of a particular Service to carry out space activities.

Mr. MILLER. In other words, the first gate you have to open, if this weapon is in the realm of space, is the gate of the exception to the present regulation?

If not, it goes to the Air Force to develop?

General LEMNITZER. I would say that the directive of September 1959, which clearly assigned responsibility for military space development, has not been substantially changed by this directive. The new directive, however, tends toward leaving the decision of future assignments, up to the Secretary on a case-by-case basis. I believe that a great deal will depend upon how the directive is administered. I have every confidence in the people that I am working with today and believe that future decisions will be made correctly.

Mr. MILLER. I want to join with you in expressing my confidence in Secretary McNamara and Mr. Gilpatric and the rest of them.