

existed on March 5 of this year. On March 5 you are in one situation, and the directive came out on March 6. What change does it create?

General LEMNITZER. The principal change is that it establishes a policy for the assignment of future military space projects to the Department of the Air Force unless an exception to policy is made by the Department of Defense to assign them to the other military departments, based upon their requirements in space, their special competency in space, and their experience in space. The new directive is expressed in more general terms than the previous directive. That is what I regard as the principal differences.

Mr. RYAN. The Secretary of Defense says, "I have decided to assign space development programs and projects to the Department of the Air Force." Then he puts an exception "except under unusual circumstances."

General LEMNITZER. That is correct.

Mr. RYAN. It would seem that the "unusual circumstances" are practically writing a complete exception into this statement.

In other words, you interpret "unusual circumstances" to include all navigational research, all communications research—

General LEMNITZER. I regard "unusual circumstances" in the final analysis will be decided on the basis of the essentiality of the project to a Service to carry out its assigned missions, or the special competency of a Service in any particular field. I would say also that the past experience of a Service in space projects would also be a factor in determining "unusual circumstances."

Mr. RYAN. Is that any different a situation than existed on March 5?

General LEMNITZER. Yes. The previous directive specifically stated that the Air Force would be responsible for certain specific areas, the Army for others and the Navy for still others. This directive is expressed in more general terms. The decisions under the new directive will be based upon the facts as they exist at the time a new project comes along.

There will be some projects I am sure that will blanket the field and in which all Services will have an interest.

Mr. RYAN. If you were writing this directive to cover the situation as you believe it to exist, you would summarize the memorandum, I assume, as saying that the assignment of projects shall be made by the Secretary of Defense consistent with the experience of the Services and not to say the assignment shall be made to the Air Force except under unusual circumstances?

General LEMNITZER. As I indicated in my comments, I was interested in two specific areas that had special significance to both the Army and the Navy. But in future assignments of projects, the Secretary has indicated the general basis upon which he will assign them. They will go to the Air Force unless special circumstances, such as those that I just mentioned indicate that an exception should be made. In other words, this directive is more generalized than the old one. It is more generalized in one respect, more specific in another.

Mr. ANFUSO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RYAN. Yes.

Mr. ANFUSO. General, is it safe to say that as far as research is concerned, as we have heard the testimony, the Navy will continue to