

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. AIR FORCE,
Washington, D.C., Oct. 23, 1959.

Mr. DANIEL P. LOOMIS,
*President, Association of American Railroads, Transportation Building,
Washington 6, D.C.*

Mr. G. E. LEIGHTY,
*Chairman, Railway Labor Executive Association,
Washington, D.C.*

GENTLEMEN: In furtherance of recent exchanges of views between representatives of your organizations, Military Traffic Management Agency and the Air Force with respect to the ability of the Railroad Industry to provide positive uninterrupted service in support of Air Force MINUTEMAN missile program when and if activated, it is suggested that an understanding along the following lines might be appropriate.

"Both railroad management and railroad labor unite in their positive assurance that there will be no delay or interruption in the maintenance, scheduling, dispatching and operation of missile trains in support of the mobile or fixed missile weapon systems as programmed and directed by the United States Air Force, in the event that interruptions to civil rail service are impending or should occur as the result of unresolved differences between railroad management and railroad labor."

It should be fully understood that the Air Force must be assured of timely and positive operation of this weapon system under all circumstances other than those attributable to acts of God.

In the event that your organization might wish further information with respect to our MINUTEMAN missile program, we would be happy to arrange such a presentation at the appropriate time.

Your response to the above proposal is requested so that the Air Force may proceed in its assessment of the feasibility of utilizing the nation's railroads as an integral part of a weapon system.

Sincerely,

EARL C. HEDLUND,
Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Director of Transportation.

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