

Mr. ROMNEY. Colonel, you are only maintaining custodial personnel with respect to these bases now?

Colonel REGAN. That is right.

Mr. ROMNEY. If you removed the related personal property what would be the effect on the custodial personnel?

Colonel REGAN. If we removed all property we could turn it over to the Government of France and would not require custodial personnel.

Mr. ROMNEY. Do you have any idea of the cost on the bases where the custodial personnel remain.

Colonel REGAN. I would say about \$1.5 million for a year. I don't have exact figures.

Mr. MONAGAN. I would like to mention the fact that our primary interest is in determining the availability of excess personal property for other Government agencies, and although we are touching necessarily on other questions here, they are not primarily the responsibility of this subcommittee. Mr. Holifield's subcommittee would be the one that would be primarily interested in the broad policy of military questions.

Mr. ROMNEY. Colonel, you mentioned three bases recently sold to the French and one of them was the Jeanne d'Arc Hospital.

Colonel REGAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMNEY. We visited that facility 2 days ago and they still maintained a custodial force there. I was wondering why that was necessary?

Colonel REGAN. Well, sir, this is based on release to the French. We have to keep a custodial force there until we release it to the French. The reason we have not released the property we have sold to the Government of France, with the exception of Toul, is that we are having a difference of opinion with the French on the wording of the sales contract. As soon as the sales contract is signed it is my intent to turn the bases back as soon as we can to cut down on our overhead expense.

Mr. ROMNEY. In other words, you have a broad agreement and further terms are to be worked out later?

Colonel REGAN. No, sir; the sales agreement is actually consummated but this is the wording in the payment clause. We have an agreement that they pay in dollars, but it is the legal wording of the contract.

Mr. MONAGAN. I just have one or two questions. MLS is under the State Department, really, in acting in an advisory capacity, is that right?

Colonel REGAN. That is right. We were placed under the Embassy as a section of the Embassy, sir.

Mr. MONAGAN. We spoke a little bit about policy decisions. For instance, in the sale of the Jeanne d'Arc Hospital and Toul-Rosiere, where would the decision be made as to the acceptability or nonacceptability of a given price?

Colonel REGAN. The final agreement was made in the case of Toul-Rosiere by General Kyser based on guidance from Washington that gave us the limitation.

Mr. MONAGAN. This was under an authority granted to him?

Colonel REGAN. That is right.

Mr. MONAGAN. He didn't have to go further?