

control over overseas depots and over logistical concentrations, complexes.

General RIEMONDY. We had the problem. We had an overseas depot concept up into the midfifties. But we recognized that we could go on a direct support concept as improvements occurred in our communications and transportation systems.

We phased out our overseas depots. And incidentally we also phased out a lot of our depots within the ZI, too. We reduced them down to the five, we have five in being today.

Mr. ROBACK. Those are the air materiel areas?

General RIEMONDY. These are the air materiel areas run by the Air Force Logistics Command, within the United States.

Mr. HORTON. How do you stock equipment, for example, in Thailand, if you operate out of a depot here?

General RIEMONDY. We provide to the bases which we have in Thailand under predetermined stock levels what they need to carry out their mission for a certain period of days, depending on the order and shipping time of resupplying from the ZI, these bases are then supplied with the items of supplies and equipment, which they need, directly from one air materiel area within the United States.

Mr. HORTON. Does that apply to ammunition, bombs and all of that?

General RIEMONDY. It applies to everything they need to carry out their mission. Now everything they need to do their job is not necessarily provided to them by one of our air materiel areas.

For example, the Air Force uses about 1,700,000 line items of supply. We centrally manage, within the Air Force, about 900,000 of these line items of materiel. About 800,000 of them are provided to the Air Force from single managers, such as DSA, GSA, and in some instances the other services.

AIRLIFT OF AIR FORCE SUPPLIES

Mr. ROBACK. When you wrapped up the overseas complexes and came home, so to speak, this was predicated upon the availability of ample resources for airlift, and in a sense this concept was particularly suitable to the Air Force, because you are the flying service.

General RIEMONDY. Well, I think there is an impression that has been given to the committee that I had better correct.

Mr. ROBACK. Let's do that.

General RIEMONDY. All right.

While it is true we closed out overseas depots predicated on the advancements which were made in communications and rapid airlift or rapid transportation, it does not necessarily mean that we ship everything to our customers worldwide by air.

While it is true that the single manager agency of airlift for the Department of Defense is the Military Airlift Command, this does not mean that the Air Force controls what the Military Airlift Command moves. As a matter of fact, I have some statistics here which indicate that, for example, in the month of April, the Military Airlift Command moved some 32,000 tons of material outbound, and of that 32,000, about 17,000 tons was in support of the Army.