MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Proposal for Establishment of a European Defense Force to Include Western German Armed Forces (JCS 2124/18)

The Chief of Staff desires that the enclosure be presented to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for consideration.

1 Encl.: Memo by CoS, US Army

KEITH L. WARE
LT COL, OGC
Assistant Secretary
General Staff

TOP SECRET
REARMAMENT OF WESTERN GERMANY

Reference: JCS 2124 series

Memorandum by the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army

1. I have considered the comments and recommendations of the Joint Strategic Survey Committee in JCS 2124/16. I concur in the minor changes made by the Joint Strategic Survey Committee in their revision of JCS 2124/11, and I also concur that no major revisions are necessary in that paper. However, in view of the fact that the President, in his letter to Mr. Johnson of 26 August, has directed that the Department of State and Department of Defense work together in developing recommendations on the problem of Germany's contribution to the defense of Western Europe, I consider that it would not be responsive to the problem to forward the report to the President, as recommended in paragraph 16, page 115 of JCS 2124/11. Therefore, I recommend that paragraph 16 of the JSSC draft memorandum to the Secretary of Defense be deleted and that the following paragraph be substituted therefor:

"16. In view of the fact that the President, in his letter to you on August 26, directed that the Department of State and the Department of Defense work together in developing recommendations on eight broad questions on this subject, to be used during the forthcoming Foreign Ministers Meetings, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that it would be inappropriate to introduce the above views into the National Security Council or to forward them to the President at this time. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have furnished their views on the President's eight questions and will very shortly furnish you with their detailed views on the State Department proposal for a European Defense Force (JCS 2124/13). It is felt that those views, together with the position included therein, will adequately express the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the question of the rearmament of Western Germany, and will be of assistance in establishing a Defense Department position on this subject for submission to the National Security Council."

2. Subject to the revision recommended in paragraph 1 above, I concur in the JSSC recommendation (page 108, paragraph 2, JCS 2124/11).