9 July 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
I asked General Heusinger as to when he expected the new German armed forces would actually come into being. He gave me the following estimate: In about two or three weeks the Bundestag should enact a law authorizing the recruiting of approximately 6,000 volunteers during this year. It was hoped that in October or November of this year the "Soldiers Law" would be passed which would authorize the recruiting of approximately 80,000 volunteers to complete the Regular Army
cadres. By May of 1956 a law should be passed authorizing the conscription of the quotas necessary to bring up to full strength the authorized German forces. The training of the cadres should be completed by the end of 1956. They will be so organized that, in the event of an emergency, they could be formed into combat units. In early 1957 the twelve divisions will be formed simultaneously. No attempt will be made to select and accelerate the training of a lesser number of divisions as a token force. By midyear 1957 all of the divisions should be fully organized and undergoing progressive training.