

Military Men Decry Kennedy International Piecemeal Approach

By COL. RAY CROMLEY
Newspaper Enterprise Military Analyst

WASHINGTON (NEA) — High United States military officers feel that the Kennedy Administration's top civilians in national security affairs have been so busy dealing in day-to-day details of military policy that they haven't been making the broad strategic policy decisions civilians are supposed to make.

The criticism is leveled at both the President's advisers in the White House and Defense Secretary McNamara's aides in the Pentagon.

The unformed officers say that the Kennedy-McNamara team works on each international crisis as it comes up. This they call "the flexible approach." But military men say they can't operate that way. They like to plan ahead, realizing it takes years to develop weapons systems, train officers, develop effective doctrines.

As a result, the military men say they are floundering. They don't know what to prepare for. They have no firm basis on which to develop new types of weapons. They have no answer when McNamara's advisers say a weapons system is not needed. They have a feeling the defense of the U.S. is "drifting."

Both the Truman and Eisenhower Administration prepared National Security Policy Papers which set out the over-all aims, principles and proposed reactions of U.S. defense. These top papers were accompanied by a host of subsidiary papers defining U.S. objectives and actions under dif-

fering sets of emergencies and tied aggressions. These papers served as guidelines for the military men whose job it was to make the practical working plans for defense.

The Kennedy Administration has not prepared such an overall National Security Policy Paper and associated papers. This failure is providing a severe handicap to the generals and admirals whose job it is to make practical plans for whatever wars and defense emergencies that may arise.

One high-placed Pentagon general with just such responsibility told me:

"I feel we are drifting. I don't feel I know what the policies are. How can we plan?"

A source close to McNamara counters:

"They can read McNamara's speeches, his budget statements and his classified memorandums."

These top military men do study these documents carefully in an attempt to figure out what the U.S. strategic policy is and how the U.S. plans to react under different circumstances.

"But we still can only guess at our strategy," says one high officer. Other military men concur, saying that what they are able to glean from speeches and classified papers leaves them in the dark about such basic questions as how and under what circumstances nuclear weapons will be used.

"I don't even know when we'd shift from conventional to nuclear weapons in the defense of Europe," says one high-placed mil-

itary man whose responsibility it is to plan for such things.

These military men believe that the President and McNamara make some of these crucial decisions on a day-to-day basis in order to keep maneuverability or "options," in McNamara's favorite word. "But it certainly makes it difficult to program ahead," one officer says wearily.

Because the State Department would have an important role in formulating a National Security Policy Paper, I talked to a high-placed State Department official about the problem.

He also doesn't understand why there is no such paper. He said the delay in formulating such a document and its associated papers was not a result of State Department objections. He said he could understand the problem the generals and admirals faced.

In answer, a McNamara civilian aide said there is a need to wait until Administration strategic policy concepts are better developed. He didn't know when that would be.

Another high government official said, "Of course you can always wait until your ideas are better developed, but that kind of waiting can go on and on forever."

Military men emphasize what they consider a simple fact: If you are going to prepare for different kinds of wars and crises, you have to make your plans years in advance because military hardware and planning takes years to conceive and develop.

Because of the budget ceilings put on one of the currently pop-

ular wigs, including this one, mammoth quantities of every conceivable type of arms and equipment cannot be built. Ponderous organizations like the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines can't play by ear.

Take the war plans for the defense of Europe. If the Russians invaded Western Europe it is not clear to key military planners at what point the U.S. and NATO would shift from conventional weapons to nuclear weapons. But if this decision isn't made in advance, then military men say the defense of Western Europe could end in a debacle.

Getting an in-the-middle-of-battle decision by the U.S. President and of the other NATO heads of state might delay the shift in weapons for those crucial hours or minutes that would insure defeat.

That is, it would if that decision had not been formulated in advance by a long series of hardheaded policy meetings that would in essence, formulate a National Security Policy Paper and its associated papers.

Hour-by-hour decision-making

DRIVERS' HAIR

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI) — Texas law requires that drivers record their hair color on their driving license, along with the other vital statistics.

If the law were interpreted strictly, fashion-minded Texas women would have to apply for a new license every time they changed their hair color or style. The law was intended to help police identify suspects in the event of a crime.

without an over-all National Security Policy Paper was the flaw in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. It was at the same time, the method of operation in the later Cuban blockade.

Other very practical reasons exist for a National Security Policy Paper now.

There are within the Pentagon sharp differences on the military practicability of different strategies and tactics under different circumstances. Some of these

sharp differences are between the military men and the civilians in the Pentagon and at the White House.

Right now, because key policy decisions haven't been made formally, there has been no resolution of these differences. They lie buried.

If the White House decides on a National Security Policy Paper and associated papers, then these

(Continued On Page 10)

Scientist Finds Means To Speed Cobalt Cure

CHICAGO (UPI) — A leading scientific institution said today one of its scientists has developed a way to cut the production time of cobalt-60—a vital radioactive element in cancer treatment and potential source of space power—from five years to three months.

The announcement was made by Armour Research Foundation (ARF) of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The ARF would not say what significance the discovery would have in connection with the so-called "cobalt bomb."

In the past there has been a waiting list for high specific activity cobalt, said Dr. Paul Y. Feng, the Armour physicist who developed the new technique under a contract with the division of Atomic Energy Commission. Cobalt-60 is rich in highly

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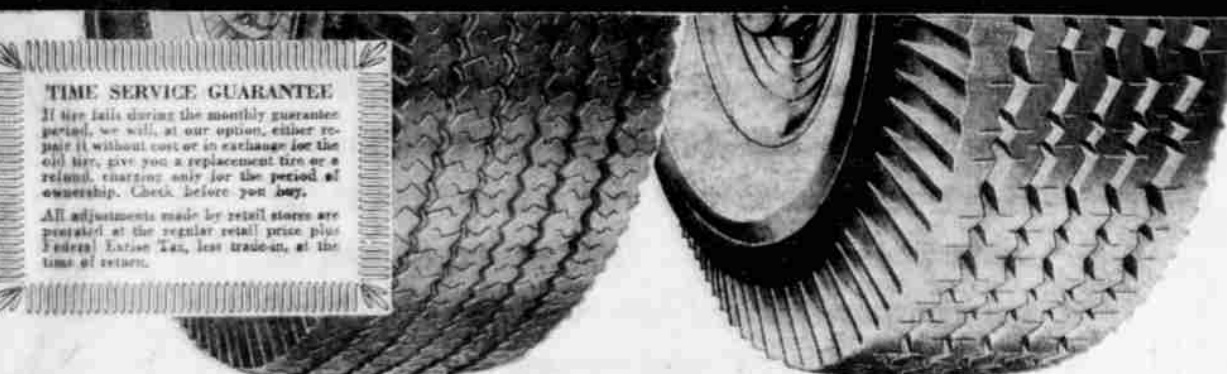
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