

January 24, 1956

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 6 requesting my views on your proposal that the President authorize the expenditure of atomic weapons in the air defense of the United States in execution of current policy governing interception and engagement of hostile aircraft. It is noted also that you request views on the most expedient manner of handling negotiations with the Government of Canada looking toward a similar grant of authority.

I am sympathetic to the request which you have in mind. However, I believe there is need for a little more clarification as to the scope of the requested authority. I am asking the Department to gather this as promptly as possible and will then at an early date give you a definitive opinion.

I believe that State Department representation would be appropriate at the Joint Chiefs briefing for the President on the technical and operational aspects of the requested authorization.

Sincerely yours,



John Foster Dulles

The Honorable
Charles E. Wilson,
Secretary of Defense.

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| DECLASSIFIED | |
| Authority | <u>NLE 2006-127</u> |
| By | <u>MMK</u> NLDDE Date <u>8/18/11</u> |