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President on October 29 authorized Dept and DOD to negotiate agreement with UK which would enable RAF to equip Lightning interceptors with U.S. GENIE (MB-1) air-to-air rockets carrying atomic warheads for purpose of improving air defense of UK and RAF--U.S. strike forces based there. Desirability of such an arrangement was first discussed by RAF and Air Force in 1958. Dept pouching Embassy copy of draft agreement incorporating principles of Presidential authorization. Although President has approved principal features of this draft, agreement must be submitted to President before signing. In addition, President wishes to consider whether and to whom USCINCEUR's responsibility to confirm a target as hostile may be delegated if this should appear feasible.

With respect to form of agreement Dept favors memorandum to be signed by Secretary and British Ambassador in view importance of matter. Since production of Lightning aircraft held up pending decision on whether and on what terms rockets can be made available, we wish to proceed urgently.

Drafted by: S/AE:PRutter:ecm 11/13/59	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: EUR - Ivan B. White
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Clearances: S/AE - Mr. Farley S/AE - Mr. Courtney BNA - Mr. Willoughby	RA - Mr. Fessenden DOD - Col. Shankle (in draft) DOD - Mr. Lang (in draft)	S/S - Mr. D. Miller Air Force - Col. Brown (in draft) REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".
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Air Force team leaving here November 16 to discuss proposed agreement first with NORSTAD and then at Wiesbaden. Team plans to discuss inter-service arrangements with RAF in London starting November 23 when it will show RAF draft agreement. It will contact Embassy on arrival. Thereafter Dept wishes conclude negotiation in diplomatic channel here.

Embassy instructed ascertain Foreign Office views on above procedure and may at its discretion furnish Foreign Office text of draft agreement. Request Foreign Office to restrict to minimum number of officials who have knowledge of this contemplated agreement.

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