

2. INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE (ICBM) AND INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE (IRBM) PROGRAMS
(NSC Actions Nos. 1433, 1484, 1690, 1743 and 1765)

Mr. Cutler introduced the subject and indicated that Mr. Holaday, of the Department of Defense, would give the presentation. Thereupon Mr. Holaday read his report, with its conclusion that the time was not yet at hand when a clear choice could be made in favor of either the THOR or the JUPITER program, and that both should be continued until successful tests are achieved by one or the other missile.

The President pointed out that the early NSC directives on the development of the U. S. ballistic missiles program had emphasized that one of the first requirements was for the achievement of a workable intermediate range ballistic missile. If an attempt to develop an IRBM with a 2000-mile range was slowing up the achievement of an ICBM with a 1500-mile range, the President was altogether against it. (The President's remark derived from a statement by Mr. Holaday that the British were pressing us to extend the range of our IRBM's to 2000 miles.)

Mr. Holaday assured the President that the Defense Department was following the NSC directives implicitly, and its objective continued to be the achievement of an ICBM with a range of 1500 miles.

The President then inquired whether Mr. Holaday and his associates were keeping under constant study the possibility of resort to a Manhattan District approach for the achievement of the objectives of our ballistic missiles program. Mr. Holaday replied in the affirmative, and the President went on to say that we might have to consider this approach despite the fact that up until now we had rejected the idea of a new Manhattan District operation for the missiles program.

Referring once again to points made by Mr. Holaday, the President inquired what difference it made whether the Army or the Air Force conducted the test firings of these missiles. Mr. Holaday replied that the Air Force fires its missiles from fixed concrete installations on its airfields. The Army, on the other hand, makes use of the principle of "shoot and scoot". It was the Army's objective to make the installations for firing missiles mobile in character.

The President, after stating that he approved the recommendations with respect to THOR and JUPITER proposed by Mr. Holaday, went on to say that only yesterday he had again been asked how much of the delay in our earth satellite program derived from inter-service rivalry. The President said that he always denied the validity of