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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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STAFF NOTES NO. 105

May 1, 1957

1. Construction Data. -- Labor plans a release on May 8 showing that the dollar value of construction work put in place in April, after adjustment for the usual seasonal rise, appears to have held about steady at the record levels of recent months. Housing activity is continuing to decline moderately, but off-setting gains have occurred in other construction, particularly office buildings and public utilities. In the public sector, there are indications that the Federal highway program is beginning to have a significant effect. (U)



2. Minerals Plan. -- Interior's proposals for a long-range minerals program, to be financed by permanent annual appropriations from tariff duties, are meeting solid opposition from the other interested agencies. This subject is being scheduled for early Cabinet consideration and Presidential decision. (U)

3. Financial. -- (a) Secretary Humphrey will meet with the Foreign Investment Committee of the Investment Bankers Association on May 2 to brief them on world financial developments and hear their problems in this field. (b) Treasury's exchange offering for \$4.155 billion of 1-5/8 per cent notes maturing May 15, 1957 will probably be announced Thursday afternoon. (U)

4. Amerika. -- Embassy Moscow has sought without success to obtain wider and freer distribution of Amerika by the official Soviet distributing agency, and is now considering an approach to the Foreign Office. However, the Embassy believes that at least a few thousand copies of the 52,000 total issue are reaching important target groups, such as students and young intellectuals, with favorable effect. (C)

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5. Korean to Tour Middle East. -- Lt. Gen. Kim Chung-yul, a top Korean air officer, will visit various African and Middle Eastern countries on a good will mission between April 28 and June 8 as a personal representative of President Rhee. He is expected to stress the threat of communism and may urge support for Korean membership in the UN. Our missions will extend courtesies and assistance. (C)

6. Japan on Nuclear Tests. -- A recent Japanese note requests on "humanitarian" rather than "political grounds" that we consider suspending the proposed nuclear tests in Nevada, referred to in an AEC announcement of April 3. (S)

7. NIKE for NATO. -- The FY 1957 MAP provides equipment to form 11 NIKE battalions for NATO: 6 Germany (on a reimbursable basis) 3 Italy, 1 Norway, and 1 Denmark. Germany has accepted 3 of the 6 and has been asked to reconsider acceptance of the other 3, failing which we shall consider providing them to other NATO countries. Army plans to initiate training for these units in the latter part of 1957, training about 200 battalion cadre personnel at Fort Bliss and Redstone Arsenal and phasing students into courses so that each cadre completes training as a unit at Fort Bliss and returns to recipient country with control portion of the equipment. (S)



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