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The **JEWISH VETERAN**

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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**CONVENTION
RESERVATION FORM**

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National Commander Ben Chasin is greeted by President Eisenhower during a visit last month.

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WHAT IS IT?

The President's Plan To Reorganize The Defense Department

THERE will be few readers of this magazine who have not seen high praise of the President's plan to reorganize the activities of the Department of Defense and seen at the same time angry denunciation of that plan. The hearings which began April 22 before the House Committee on Armed Services have produced a welter of conflicting views.

Behind this lies a sincere desire on the part of all concerned to establish the strongest possible defenses for our country in a time of sputniks and intercontinental ballistic missiles. The members of the Jewish War Veterans, who have always shown an especial interest in the strength of our Armed Forces, are vitally concerned by the proposed changes. This subject deserves your thoughtful consideration. To assist you in this matter, the editors of this magazine have made a survey of the President's proposals in the hope that it will serve to explain exactly what the President and the Pentagon propose by way of changes in organization and responsibilities.

The President's Reorganization Plan

While the past changes in the organiza-

tion of the Department of Defense were largely attributable to the search for the most effective means of utilizing existing forces, the President's Reorganization Plan is today made necessary by the changes in basic concepts which revolutionary weapons and techniques for their use demand.

When Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1953 was issued, missiles were just beginning to add a new dimension to warfare. In our country, research on long-range ballistic missiles had not progressed to the point where their impact on techniques of warfare had been fully recognized. The thought that we might be limited to less than 30 minutes in which to prepare to meet a devastating attack seemed to belong to the remote future and not to be worthy at that time of detailed military consideration. And if the near elimination of time and distance as military factors belonged to the remote future, the possibility of instrumented or manned earth satellites belonged to the realm of science fiction.

Today, obviously, all this has changed. It is an abiding fact that intercontinental ballistic missiles are or soon will be possessed by the major military powers of

the world. Both U.S. and Russian satellites have been placed in orbit around the earth. Nuclear weapons of incalculable force have entered the world arsenals. And we are daily discovering new and revolutionary uses for nuclear power in the propulsion of other weapons.

These weapons are all in our possession or within our grasp, and it would be folly to assume that they will long be denied to other military powers. The United States must, clearly, face the fact that these weapons may be used against us and our allies. And we must be prepared to use them ourselves so surely and so effectively that our resultant strength acts as a deterrent to war.

Unified Commands the Central Concept

It is the President's judgment that use of unified commands with full operational authority and direct communications to the Secretary of Defense through the JCS is the basic answer to our need.

If the unified commands are to act quickly decisively, and with the fullest possible flexibility, they must have a direct channel of command from the Secretary of Defense through his military advisors. Thus the ability of the JCS to render to the Secretary the most able military advice that can be obtained, both for strategic planning and for operation of the combatant forces, must be strengthened. With this strengthening comes the need for a clear definition of the authority of the Chairman of JCS, as well as for the

creation of an operations division within ICS. Finally, the Secretary's need for a Director of Defense Research and Engineering working immediately with him becomes clear in a time when the use of new weapons cannot be limited to one Service but cut across traditional military roles and missions.

Unified Commands

The heart of the President's proposal lies in the concept of the unified command. The President has stated that, "separate ground, sea, and air warfare is gone forever." The experience we have all had has shown us that if we should ever again be involved in war, we must fight it in all elements, with all Services, as one single concentrated effort. In such an effort the unified commands will provide the cutting edge of our military machine — the units which will do the fighting and for whose effectiveness our entire Defense organization exists.

Past Use of Unified Commands

There is nothing novel in this concept of unified commands. Operations in World War II and the Korean conflict showed fully not only the desirability but indeed the practical necessity for such commands. This proven effectiveness of unified commands is demonstrated by the existence today in the Department of Defense of eight of the nine commands which are contemplated by the President's plan. The ninth unified command contemplated is

also operating today, though not as a unified command.

Proposed Organization

The authority of the Secretary of Defense to establish unified commands is made explicit in the Reorganization Plan, and he is empowered to assign forces of the Military Departments to them. A chain of command running directly from the commander of the unified command to the Secretary of Defense and the President is made clear. Further, the President's plan is intended to remove present uncertainties concerning the authority of unified commanders to have direct command of all forces assigned to their commands.

Changes in Joint Staff

Commanders of unified commands will communicate directly with the Secretary of Defense through the JCS on all matters relating to the preparation of strategic plans and strategic direction of the Armed Forces, the conduct of combat operations, and all other necessary functions of command. To carry this added load, the Joint Staff must be strengthened in order to carry out the operational and planning assistance up to now largely furnished by staffs of the Military Departments.

Power to Delegate Duties

The President's Reorganization Plan, by providing that the Chiefs may delegate to their Vice Chiefs a greatly enlarged scope of individual responsibilities and duties, will free the Chiefs from many of the

routine matters that now require their personal attention and will enable them to devote all necessary time and effort to their broadened JCS duties.

Changes relating to the position of the Chairman of the JCS which are proposed are designed generally to provide a more realistic administrative organization within the JCS. He will be, for instance, authorized to select the Director of the Joint Staff and to assign work to the Joint Staff.

Military Departments

The President has stated emphatically that his Reorganization Plan does not contemplate repeal of laws prescribing the composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force. He has said, "I have neither the intent nor the desire to change or abolish the traditional services." Indeed this assurance is spelled out in the proposed legislation.

Functions to Be Performed

Under the reorganization the Services will continue to perform their primary functions of managing the vast administrative, personnel, training, logistics, and most of the research functions of the Defense Department. The present heavy responsibilities of the Service Secretaries in the vital task of bringing greater economy and efficiency to activities which support operational commands will continue.

"Separately Administered"

The Reorganization Plan removes a condition in the law that the military services

shall be "separately administered" and states that henceforth the Departments shall be administered by their respective secretaries under the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense.

The Secretary of Defense can and does make decisions regarding the separate Service Departments which are not questioned. However, at lower levels in the Defense organization the "separately administered" concept beclouds the respective responsibilities of those to whom the Secretary of Defense has delegated the responsibility for carrying out certain objectives which he has set and those who are understandably and genuinely convinced that their Service is to be separately administered and therefore is not subject to these objectives. These matters can be straightened out by appeal to the Secretary of Defense, but to handle them all would put unpardonable and unbearable demands on his time which should be devoted to matters of great importance. And however these matters are handled, they create long drawn-out delays which the Department of Defense can at any time ill afford.

Rules and Missions

Under the present law, the Secretary of Defense is specifically prohibited from transferring, reassigning, abolishing or consolidating the combatant functions assigned to the Military Departments by the National Security Act of 1947. Today's weapons however require the sorting out

of responsibilities on a sophisticated basis, and to avoid overlap and duplication the Secretary of Defense must have sufficient flexibility to move in accordance with today's rapid developments. Without this both the Army and the Air Force can claim similar modern weapons which will perform the World War II type operation of close support of ground forces, since this mission can be interpreted as incident to combat both on land and in the air. In like manner, both the Navy and the Air Force can claim weapons which have capability for strategic warfare, and both the Army and the Air Force can claim similar weapons which have application to air defense.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

With the line of communications running directly from the unified commander to the Secretary of Defense through the JCS, certain administrative changes are sought for the Secretary himself and his office. Congress will be requested to provide him a limited flexibility in the handling of Defense funds. Congress will also be asked to establish a new position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

Director of Defense R & E

One of the most significant proposals is the creation of a Director of Defense Research and Engineering, who will be the principal advisor to the Secretary on sci-

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An Act of Social Protest

by OMAR N. BRADLEY
General of the Army

*Excerpts from a
recent address at St. Albans School*

I WOULD like to believe that we are addressing ourselves to this problem of how to make human intelligence work for humanity in just such an undertaking as the one that occupies us here this evening.

We are met here with a common concern for the educational welfare of our children. In our endeavor to provide more adequately for their needs, we have departed the tradition of public schooling. In a sense, therefore, we might be said to have engaged in an act of social protest. It is a protest against the parsimonious mistreatment of our public school system — not only by this community, but by communities almost everywhere. It is a protest against the exploitation of dedicated teachers who must reconcile themselves to a marginal existence for the privilege of following their calling. It is a protest against that slovenly lack of intellectual discipline we have tolerated in our nation's educational institutions. And finally, it is a protest against that anti-intellectual prejudice which appears to disparage learning.

We have come — most of us — to St. Albans because St. Albans can provide

those qualities of education that so many schools lack. We have come because we have found at St. Albans a decent respect for human intelligence — and because we want to engender that same respect in our children.

Here — as in schools anywhere — that respect can be taught only by teachers who are qualified to teach it. For a school is not so much an institution as it is a band of teachers, joined in dedication, in professional competence and in the desire to help humanity lift itself up by making better use of the infinite capacity of human intellect.

There is no calling more worth while than this. The teacher is the real soldier of Democracy. Others can defend it, but only he can make it work. He carries the guidon of human progress in his hands, for it is he alone who can cultivate the extraordinary intelligence that will be required to extricate this world from its accumulating burden of peril.

With such a role as this, the mission of a teacher is a proud one. And we who are the parents and grandparents, or graduates, are most fortunate to have found in