

31 Mar
1900Z
2hr
117L

AFFWD INGLEWOOD CALIF

**HQ USAF
ATTN: AFCEM COL SOFER
WASHINGTON D C**

WDT-3-1-E. TELECOM COL SOFER TO COL TENDINE SATURDAY 22 MAR.

**ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT STATUS OF BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAMS BY DIRECT
COMPARISON WITH SCHEDULES PRESENTED YEAR AGO QUITE INVOLVED AND COULD
BE MISLEADING UNLESS CAREFUL ACCOUNT TAKEN OF INFLUENCE OF VARIOUS
FACTORS ON THE SCHEDULES. THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF PROGRESS IS ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN OPERATIONAL FORCE OF SPECIFIED CHARACTERISTICS. THE INTERVENING
MILESTONES MUST OF NECESSITY HAVE A MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY TO COPE WITH
VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE PROGRAM PROGRESS. DURING THE PAST YEAR
RIGID ADHERENCE TO MILESTONE SCHEDULES HAS BEEN DIFFICULT NOT ONLY
BECAUSE OF THE NORMAL VARIATIONS EXPECTED IN AN R&D PROGRAM BUT ALSO
IN PART BECAUSE OF SUCH FACTORS AS PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SIZE
AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FORCE OBJECTIVES, LIMITATIONS ON EXPENDITURES
AND OVERTIME, DECELERATION AND ACCELERATION OF ACTIVATION RATES, AND
DECREASES AND INCREASES IN PRODUCTION RATES. ANALYSIS OF TODAY'S 28 MAR 1900Z
STATUS REVEALS A CONSTANT ADJUSTMENT OF MILESTONES TO MAXIMIZE EFFECTIVENESS 1958**

WDT

**DEPT COMDR TECH OPS
CHARLES H. TENDINE, JR., COL USAF
2208**

S/ Gen Schriever

AFMS INGLEWOOD CALIF

**HE HAS EFFORT IN EACH PROGRAM, AND IN THE CASE OF THE ICBM, A
CONSIDERABLE ACCELERATION OVER THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULES. PRESENT
FACTORS AFFECTING THESE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE
MAY 58 PRESENTATION OF THE AF BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAMS.**