

Briefing Paper for the President's Press Conference

September 7, 1960

DISARMAMENTQUESTION

Mr. President, Chairman Khrushchev is coming to the United Nations General Assembly and presumably he intends to place considerable emphasis on the subject of disarmament. Do we have any indication of what Chairman Khrushchev may propose in this area, and do we intend to make any new disarmament proposals ourselves?

ANSWER

You'll have to ask Mr. Khrushchev what he intends to say about disarmament and whether he will introduce any new disarmament proposals.

As far as the United States is concerned, on June 27, at the Geneva Ten Nation Disarmament Conference, we tabled, following the Soviet bloc's walkout, a practical disarmament program. To date, it has not received from the Communists detailed or serious consideration. We hope that at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly the Assembly will lend its support to a resumption of general disarmament negotiations which in turn would enable thorough consideration to be given to this program.

QUESTION

Mr. President, there have been reports which indicate that a new organization to handle disarmament matters is now being established. Would you care to comment on this?

ANSWER

As you know, we have continually reviewed the matter of strengthening our activities in the disarmament field. However, I believe it would be premature to indicate today any particular conclusion we have arrived at as a result of this review process. Any such conclusion will be announced in due course.

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