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Document No. 35620955

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EMORANDUM

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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Attached is a proposed response to Chairman Fascell's inquiry on the War Powers Act. May we have your comments on the draft response as well as a recommendation as to who should sign it no later than 1:15 p.m. today. There is a 2:00 p.m.

meeting for which a response is needed. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hasten to respond to your letter of yesterday to the President to put quickly to rest any misconception you may have of the actions we have taken in the Gulf of Sidra.

First, our maneuvers in the Gulf have long been planned, appart of a global freedom-of-navigation program by which the U.S. preserves its rights to use international waters and airspace. Similar, prior operations did not provoke a response. We obviously cannot be deterred from exercising our rights by Qadhafi's legally baseless claims or and by his threats.

We disagree with your claim that our "actions in the Gulf of Sidra have failed to adequately satisfy the requirements of the War Powers Resolution." Nor do we believe that the Resolution was intended to require consultation before conducting naval maneuvers in international waters or airspace. We considered this question carefully and concluded that conducting the operations did not place U.S. forces into hostilities or into a situation in which imminent hostilities were clearly indicated by the circumstances. Contrary to your letter's suggestion, it is not enough under the statute that an operation create "a distinct possibility" of hostilities. After Libya attacked our forces, we notified congressional leaders.

Our plans in this instance have been known to all, including Qadhafi himself. The very purpose of the present operation has been to exercise our rights, openly and unambiguously.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

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Congress of the United States Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives Washington, BE 2019

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Sent of Star

March 24, 1986

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your recent policy decision involving the deployment of American naval forces off the coast of Libya has been a matter of great concern to me. That concern was heightened this morning by reports that an American aircraft was fired on by a Libyan missile.

I write you in the context of my oversight responsibilities for full implementation of the War Powers Resolution. As the original House sponsor of that legislation I have an abiding determination to assure full compliance with the law.

Like you, I recognize that the actions of Libyan leader Qaddaffi are contemptible in every respect. His repeated support for terrorism and his direct aggression against neighboring states merit the world's harshest condemnation.

In pursuing policies intended to offset Mr. Qaddaffi's actions, I am sure you would agree that we must respect and abide by our own laws and constitutional procedures. In that connection, I believe your Administration's actions in the Gulf of Sidra have failed to adequately satisfy the requirements of the War Powers Resolution.

The President Harch 24, 1986 Page Two

As demonstrated by today's reported attack, these deployments constituted from the outset a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities was a distinct possibility clearly indicated by the circumstances even prior to today's development.

Under the circumstances, prior consultation with Congress was required under the War Powers Act.

In view of these circumstances, I respectfully urge you to comply fully with the provisions of the War Powers Resolution before the situation evolves further.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dente B. Fascell

Chairman

DEF: jby

Document No.	
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

JECT: RESPONSE T	O CHAIRMAN I	ASCEL.	L		
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Risque Staff Secretary

Est 2703 RESPONSE:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

Received S S

1985 MAR 25 PM 1: 53

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW

FROM:

RODNEY B. MCDANIEL Bob for

SUBJECT:

Response to Chairman Fascell

Recommend proposed letter to Chairman Fascell be forwarded as drafted (with changes noted) for signature by Will Ball.

Attachment

Tab A Draft letter to Fascell (with changes)

	2413	
Document No.		

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDURGENT

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FY
VICE PRESIDENT			LACY		
REGAN			POINDEXTER		
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KINGON					

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RESPONSE:

URGENT

OB MAR 25 P12

34

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With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Document No.

1385 MAR 25 PW 4:08

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

BJECT: RESPONSE TO	CHAIRMAN I	FASCEL	L		-
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VICE PRESIDENT			LACY		
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HENKEL					
HICKS					
KINGON					

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RESPONSE:

chay /

David L. Chew **Staff Secretary**

Ext. 2702

ID # 356209 CU
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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

JBJECT: RESPONSE T	O CHAIRMAN I	FASCE	LL		
	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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⊠SS

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:15 p.m. today

SVAHN

THOMAS

TUTTLE

REMARKS: Attached is a proposed response to Chairman Fascell's inquiry on the War Powers Act. May we have your comments on the draft response as well as a recommendation as to who should sign it no later than 1:15 p.m. today. There is a 2:00 p.m. meeting for which a response is needed. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

DATE: 3/25/86

CHAVEZ

DANIELS

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HENKEL

KINGON

HICKS

CHEW

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NSC and coursely office 3/25/86
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Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Our plans in this instance have been known to all, including Qadhafi himself. The very purpose of the present operation has been to exercise our rights, openly and unambiguously.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

BANTO & MARRIEL FLANCE COMMISSION

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Congress of the United States Committee on Foreign Affairs

insues of Representatives Washington, BE 2019

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STATE OF STATE

March 24, 1986

The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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I write you in the context of my oversight responsibilities for full implementation of the War Powers Resolution. As the original House sponsor of that legislation I have an abiding determination to assure full compliance with the law.

Like you, I recognize that the actions of Libyan leader Qaddaffi are contemptible in every respect. His repeated support for terrorism and his direct aggression against neighboring states merit the world's harshest condemnation.

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The President Harch 24, 1986 Page Two

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Under the circumstances, prior consultation with Congress was required under the War Powers Act.

In view of these circumstances, I respectfully urge you to comply fully with the provisions of the War Powers Resolution before the situation evolves further.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dente B. Pascell.

DEF: jby

Nancy Noncy

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW

FROM:

RODNEY B. MCDANIEL Bot for

SUBJECT:

Response to Chairman Fascell

Recommend proposed letter to Chairman Fascell be forwarded as drafted (with changes noted) for signature by Will Ball.

Attachment
Tab A Draft letter to Fascell (with changes)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

ACTION

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR RODNEY B. MCDANIEL

SIGNED

FROM:

RON SABLE

SUBJECT:

Response to Chairman Fascell

Recommend attached draft (as changed, Tab A) be forwarded for signature by Will Ball.

Jim Stark and Paul Thompson concur.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to Chew at Tab I.

Approve MP

Disapprove ____

Attachments

Tab I Memo for signature

Tab A Draft (as changed)

TIME STAMP

16 MAR 25 P12: 39

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REFERRAL

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National Security Council The White House

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TO

MCDANIEL

FROM CHEW, D

DOCDATE 25 MAR 86

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24 MAR 86

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25 MAR 86

KEYWORDS: CONGRESSIONAL

LIBYA

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN FASCELL

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO MCDANIEL TO CHEW DUE: 25 MAR 86 STATUS C FILES WH

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DISPATCH

PA

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 26, 1986

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Dear Mr. President:

On March 23, United States forces in the Eastern Mediterranean began a peaceful exercise as part of a global Freedom of Navigation program by which the United States preserves its rights to use international waters and air space. This exercise is being conducted entirely in and over areas of the high seas, in accordance with international law and following aviation safety notification procedures.

On March 24, our forces were attacked by Libya. In response, U.S. forces took limited measures of self-defense necessary to protect themselves from continued attack. In accordance with my desire that the Congress be informed on this matter, I am providing this report on the actions taken by United States Armed Forces during this incident.

Shortly before 8:00 a.m. (EST) on March 24, two SA-5 surface-toair missiles were fired at U.S. aircraft flying over the high seas in the Gulf of Sidra from a Libyan missile installation in the vicinity of Sirte on the northern Libyan coast. During the course of the next few hours, several surface-to-air missiles were fired at U.S. aircraft operating over the high seas. At approximately 3:00 p.m. (EST) these missile installations again activated their target-acquisition radars with the evident objective of firing upon U.S. aircraft. Two HARM air-to-surface missiles were thereupon fired by a U.S. Navy A-7 aircraft, apparently resulting in the destruction of the radars controlling the missile battery. After a short outage, the radar returned to active status and still posed a threat to U.S. forces. At 6:47 p.m., A-7 aircraft again fired two HARM missiles at the SA-5 radar at Sirte. After another short outage, the radar has returned to active status.

Meanwhile, a Libyan missile patrol boat equipped with surface-to-surface missiles came within missile range of U.S. ships on the high seas well away from the Libyan coast. The U.S. commander determined, in light of the Libyan attacks on U.S. aircraft, that this vessel was hostile and therefore ordered U.S. aircraft to engage it. At approximately 2:00 p.m. (EST), U.S. Navy A-6 aircraft fired two Harpoon missiles, which struck and heavily damaged the Libyan vessel. At approximately 4:30 p.m. (EST), a second Libyan patrol boat approached U.S. forces, and was driven off by U.S. Navy aircraft. Shortly after 6:00 p.m. (EST), a third Libyan patrol craft approached the USS YORKTOWN at a high rate of speed; the YORKTOWN fired two Harpoon missiles, which hit the Libyan craft.

Livered by hand: 3/26/86 (7:50p)

Shortly after 12:20 a.m. (EST) on March 25, U.S. Navy A-6 aircraft armed with Harpoon missiles attacked another Libyan craft, apparently resulting in the sinking of that vessel.

All U.S. aircraft returned safely to their carriers, and no casualties or damage were suffered by U.S. forces. The extent of Libyan casualties is not known.

U.S. forces will continue with their current exercises. We will not be deterred by Libyan attacks or threats from exercising our rights on and over the high seas under international law. If Libyan attacks do not cease, we will continue to take the measures necessary in the exercise of our right of self-defense to protect our forces.

The deployment of these United States Armed Forces and the measures taken by them in self-defense during this incident were undertaken pursuant to my authority under the Constitution, including my authority as Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

nogo S blue S

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
President pro tempore of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 26, 1986

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Sincerely,

Rouse Cayon

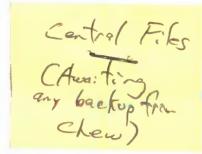
The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Speaker of the House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Clerk On o one available mi pren yleniala they war ready. In to the 15 AS Chaigh A. M. after making a Bensupier all mitimation of e last neglet. Volenest. Dallan at opper 8:4511.m

O President Pro Tempore of the Senat	e 3/26/86
	(Date)
ECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE: Letter from the President dated 3/	/26/86 with respect
to U.S. forces in the Eastern Medi	iterranean that were
attacked by Libya	
Delivered by August Rec	eived by <u>Al John</u> 7:50 N. m
of Representatives	3/26/86 (Date)
RECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE: Letter from the President dated 3/2	26/86 with respect
to U.S. forces in the Eastern Medit	terranean that were
attacked by Libya	
Delivered by R. Luslen Rec	ceived by Diffe

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary



For Immediate Release

March 27, 1986

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

March 26, 1986

Dear Mr. Speaker:

(Dear Mr. President:)

On March 23, United States forces in the Eastern Mediterranean began a peaceful exercise as part of a global Freedom of Navigation program by which the United States preserves its rights to use international waters and air space. This exercise is being conducted entirely in and over areas of the high seas, in accordance with international law and following aviation safety notification procedures.

On March 24, our forces were attacked by Libya. In response, U.S. forces took limited measures of self-defense necessary to protect themselves from continued attack. In accordance with my desire that the Congress be informed on this matter, I am providing this report on the actions taken by United States Armed Forces during this incident.

Shortly before 8:00 a.m. (EST) on March 24, two SA-5 surface-to-air missiles were fired at U.S. aircraft flying over the high seas in the Gulf of Sidra from a Libyan missile installation in the vicinity of Sirte on the northern Libyan coast. During the course of the next few hours, several surface-to-air missiles were fired at U.S. aircraft operating over the high seas. At approximately 3:00 p.m. (EST) these missile installations again activated their target-acquisition radars with the evident objective of firing upon U.S. aircraft. Two HARM air-to-surface missiles were thereupon fired by a U.S. Navy A-7 aircraft, apparently resulting in the destruction of the radars controlling the missile battery. After a short outage, the radar returned to active status and still posed a threat to U.S. forces. At 6:47 p.m., A-7 aircraft again fired two HARM missiles at the SA-5 radar at Sirte. After another short outage, the radar has returned to active status.

Meanwhile, a Libyan missile patrol boat equipped with surface-to-surface missiles came within missile range of U.S. ships on the high seas well away from the Libyan coast. The U.S. commander determined, in light of the Libyan attacks on U.S. aircraft, that this vessel was hostile and therefore ordered U.S. aircraft to engage it. At approximately 2:00 p.m. (EST), U.S. Navy A-6 aircraft fired two Harpoon missiles, which struck and heavily damaged the Libyan vessel. At approximately 4:30 p.m. (EST), a second Libyan patrol boat approached U.S. forces, and was driven off by U.S. Navy aircraft. Shortly after 6:00 p.m. (EST), a third Libyan patrol craft approached the USS YORKTOWN at a high rate of speed; the YORKTOWN fired two Harpoon missiles, which hit the Libyan craft.

more

(OVER)

Shortly after 12:20 a.m. (EST) on March 25, U.S. Navy A-6 aircraft armed with Harpoon missiles attacked another Libyan craft, apparently resulting in the sinking of that vessel.

All U.S. aircraft returned safely to their carriers, and no casualties or damage were suffered by U.S. forces. The extent of Libyan casualties is not known.

U.S. forces will continue with their current exercises. We will not be deterred by Libyan attacks or threats from exercising our rights on and over the high seas under international law. If Libyan attacks do not cease, we will continue to take the measures necessary in the exercise of our right of self-defense to protect our forces.

The deployment of these United States Armed Forces and the measures taken by them in self-defense during this incident were undertaken pursuant to my authority under the Constitution, including my authority as Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

* * * * * *

August 4, 1986

363149 +000 C0089 TLD03 F0006-10 BYOOKS, BYAD

Dear Mrs. Brooks:

Your letter has just resched my desk and I want you to know how much it meant to me. I share the pride you've expressed in your son, Brad.

The decisions I make in this office are never easy, especially when they might put the lives of American service men and women in danger. But those proud members of our military know that when a nation, any nation, targets America or its citizens for terror, our love of peace must never be mistaken for fear to act. As I've said before, we will do what is necessary to ensure the safety of Americans around the globe.

At the Tokyo Summit in May, we and our allies struck a consensus on measures to counter international terrorism and, I'm pleased to say, new and effective steps are being taken by all the free nations involved. This kind of cooperation is critical to success, but we also recognize that dedication like your son's is the surest guarantee that the American people will continue to be free.

Thank you for taking the time to let me know your concerns. God bless you and your son.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Mrs. W. F. Brooks 305 Meadowbrook Road Stratford, Connecticut 06497

RR: AGAIII: KC: AVH: ckb 7PMNA

CLEAR WITH NSC

DRAFT/Date 7/15/86 RR / AGAIII / (C) / (Rev. I)	(Rev. II)	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Enclosures:
	Clas	Other:
AVH//	4/10	

Dear Mrs. Brooks,

OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE - COMMENTS

то:	Van Eron/N	SC	
DATE DUE:	Open	TYPE OF RESPONSE: Multiple Mailing	☐ Form Reply ☑ One-Time Reply
SUBJECT:	U.S. response to	Libyan terrorism.	
REQUESTED BY	ADDITED TO.	. W. F. Brooks atford, Connecticut	
	Letter from moth wrote home in Ap President's deci- terrorist-relate	ared in White House corresponder of U.S. serviceman in German ril regarding his support for the sion to retaliate against Libyad installations. Response empleto deal with the terrorist the sare necessary.	ny who the an nasizes
SIGNATURE:	Chules A. G	Driver_	DATE: July 29, 1986
		Presidential Messages Old Executive Office Building Room 94 (202) 456-7610	
Your Recom	mendation/Comments:		
	The NSC concurs	s as is as amended	g the
			RE OK.
	RODNEY B. MCDAI	NIEL	RE OK. Cycol AMENT COMMENT COMMENT

sm in Hil = ...

305 Meadowbrook Road Stratford, Connecticut 06497 April 28, 1986

President Ronald Reagan White House Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed please find a copy of a recent letter from my son who is an Air Force Staff Seargent stationed in Bitburg, Germany. He enlisted at the age of 18, right out of high school, has been in the military service now for five years, and has re-enlisted for another term which will bring his length of service to ten years.

Though, as a parent, I am worried and concerned about him in relation to our world condition, I thought that you, as his Commander-in-Chief, would like to know just how he feels about you and the decisions you must make that will affect him, and all who have given a portion of their lives to this country.

Even though parts of the letter are personal - I feel you must read it in full context to see the true meaning behind his words.

I was so moved when I received this, I thought it might enlighten your spirit and lighten your task to read it.

Needless to say, I am very proud of him.

Very sincerely,

Jacey a. Brooks

SLR

Dear Mon, Friday, 18APR86 How are you? I thought I'd write a guick letter because with all that is going on, I figured you might be a little worried. Things here are calm, wo Liloyo happened. But since then security on base has really tightened up.

At work they warned us to stay
away from bars and clubs frequented
by G.I's. I haven't gone to many lors off base lately anyways, they said that people who live in towns with alot of americans should be real careful and always check their cars before getting in them, My town doesn have many americans. I think two other families besides me and Dave In not too worried. We aren't in a high risk over for terrorism like say Frankfurt. Oh yeah, about this Libya thing, Isn't

bases in Engla is too lad believe some of about the pregnant ane over greece! down in Rome mad. I think we stopped n sure glad Reagan had the nd said energh is enough, I wis Id run for another term, because sure would vote for him, aga

hope I don't sound like a war monger, but we keep taking it and taking it and our people keep getting killed. I'm sick of it, The armed forces & are around to protect american citizens all over the world and we should do it. We should terminate that Madman Kaddafi. Don't warry, it doesn't look like we are going anywhere or going to do anything. Doo bad, I'm really ready to start really larving my money, go ahead Kaddafi, make my day,

Now to your letter. No, it wasn't really that cold in Surdenia. In fact It was kind of nice compared to here.

You asked about my income tax, I
filled it out the day you wrote your letter to me I mailed it the next day. I am supposed to get back \$43000, When it comes pert it in the bank at Green (Society for Savings or whatever Name they are using this week), please, Who

4

did yours anyway Well, I'm glad Iim moved into an apartment, No, I haven't heard from him lately.
Oh year, you know I said on the phone I didn't know about Barney. Well when I did my income tox, I found note inside the envelope that you sent some of my bank statements, I must have missed it before, Dave got back from TDY on Monday, He was in Florida for three weeks and came back with a nice tan, and what did he come lack to. It was cold We even had snow fluries last week. It has been a "little" warmer the last two days, Even the sun has made some short appearances I hadn't seen it in weeks dast week me and my crew had wash rack (washing jets), It is one of the worse details. At least it was only for a week and it isn't that often, dust time we had it was after I got lack

Me and Dave are going to a party tomorrow for a guy who is leaving and going back to the States. I'll go if Mora I've got things to do before Jell Bonnie a letter is coming. I hope you have a great time on Love Boat, try not to break too many to everyone from one of the member of the babykilling imperialist dogs of the USAF (Their propoganda is great isn'+ it!). my himor, sorry one up for the Great United States P.S.S. I hope you can see my point. PSSS. I am enclosing a picture of