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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

STAFF NOTES NO. 161

August 3, 1957

1. M-48 Tanks for Germany. -- Germany has formally ordered 233 new M48A1 tanks with a year's spare parts, to be delivered at a rate of 70 per month, starting in April 1958. Unit price is \$137,658 plus \$31,522 for parts. The German Defense Ministry does not plan to accept the balance of our June 20 offer of 350 M48A1 tanks but may seek to buy an undetermined number of later model M48A2 medium tanks early next year. The Germans are discussing with the French the possibility of jointly developing a Diesel-powered tank; and this planning probably will influence the rate of procurement from non-German sources. (C)

2. UK Nuclear Tests. -- Defense reports that the British plan a new series of atomic tests this year at Maralinga, Australia. Yield will not exceed a few tens of kilotons, and the explosions will be kept to the minimum necessary for test purposes. No public announcement is intended, but if there are Parliamentary or press questions, the tests will be confirmed. (C)

3. Exports to Near East. -- State and Commerce have recently set specific commodity ceilings for US exports to the Near East: shipments to Jordan, Lebanon and Israel will follow the yearly 1954-6 average; Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Iraq are generally exempt; and export licensing for certain military and quasi-military items for Egypt and Syria will be quite restrictive. (C)

4. Suhrawardy Trip. -- USIA reports increasing Pakistani feeling that the Prime Minister has stayed here too long, has been too pro-US during his visit, and has failed to get desired US commitments. These sentiments are not irrevocable, but grow firmer the longer he stays out of the country. (C)



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