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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GENERAL STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CS 091
3162

OPS 091 Germany TS (25 Jul 50)

25 July 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GRUENTHER:

SUBJECT: Discussion With Col Byroade on German Rearmament

1. The following points, which were brought out in a discussion yesterday between Gen Schuyler and Col Byroade on the problem of German rearmament, may be of some value to you as background in the Ops Deps meeting this afternoon on this problem.

a. Col Byroade indicated that there are a number of highly placed individuals in the State Dept who agree thoroughly with the military view that we should reach a definite decision now to begin rearming Western Germany. He mentioned particularly Mr. Harriman who, he said, has had extensive conversations with the Secretary of State on the problem. Col Byroade indicated that Mr. Acheson himself is still undecided and might conceivably be convinced that at least in the near future we must make this decision.

b. Byroade said that even those in State most opposed to reaching any decision now (including Byroade himself) feel that if the international situation continues to deteriorate at the present rate, we will be forced, within a year or so, to undertake full German rearmament. He said State is reluctant to take this course now because it means a resurgence of the military clique in Germany and virtual abandonment of the hope for eventual development of a truly democratic government for West Germany. Byroade feels that only dire international necessity, which is not as yet the case, should cause this decision to be taken.

c. Confirming Gen Handy's letter to Gen Collins this morning, Byroade indicated that State has given its full approval to the proposal for immediate formation of a 10,000-man police force. He said State will endeavor at once to secure agreement from the British and French on this step.

2. The above information raises the possibility that it might be desirable to give Mr. Acheson a little more time to make up his mind, before pushing too strongly in the NSC for a decision on this problem. If Mr. Acheson's support in the NSC could be secured beforehand, final approval by the President would be far easier to obtain.

3. A more detailed memo for record of Gen Schuyler's conversations with Col Byroade is being prepared but will not be available in time for your use at the Operations Deputies meeting this afternoon.

Charles L. Bolte

CHARLES L. BOLTE
Major General, GSC
ACofS, G-3

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