



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

19 December 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: H. R. 8502, 94th Congress, a bill "To amend title 10 of the United States Code in order to make the Commandant of the Marine Corps a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff"--ACTION MEMORANDUM

✓ Attached, (Tab A) is a proposed Department of Defense report submitted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the subject bill.

The report takes the position that the Department of Defense is satisfied with the present procedures governing JCS deliberations, saying that the Commandant has participated on matters of concern to the Marine Corps for years, his right and interest have never been contested, and the interests and viewpoints of the Marine Corps are well represented.

The Air Force and the Army concur with the proposed report. (Tabs B & C)

The Secretary of the Navy does not concur. (Tab D) He recommends the report be revised to support the bill as eliminating an unnecessary distinction in the law between the Chiefs of the four Services. He states that:

- a. The Commandant is de facto a member and this bill would formalize existing practice,
- b. The bill would recognize the contributions of the Marine Corps by placing its Chief on a legal par with the others,
- c. The distinction is unnecessary and undesirable.

Your decision is requested on the following alternatives:

- 1. Submit report as proposed DR JAN 24 1976
- 2. Revise report as recommended by the Secretary of the Navy _____



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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE