

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 9/30/97

LEMNITZER

LEMNITZER, LYMAN L.

OH-301

64 pp. w/Index

PRCQ

Senior staff officer under Eisenhower during World War II; Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Research, Department of the Army, 1952-55; Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Far East Command, 1955-57; Vice Chief of Staff, 1957-59, and Chief of Staff, 1959-60, Department of the Army; Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1960-62

DESCRIPTION: PART I: General overview of Lemnitzer's military career; military assignments from 1940-42; assignment to Eisenhower's London headquarters; Eisenhower's organizational abilities (incl. creating the concept of an allied team, adaptability in dealing with nuclear weaponry, role in developing the 1947 National Defense Act, rationale for organizing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, criticism encountered in dealing with the allied team effort); comments about the "Patton" film; Lemnitzer's continuing interest in NATO affairs; a comment regarding a SHAPE book and Eisenhower; comments regarding Eisenhower's character (incl. observations based on a variety of experiences ranging from the London headquarters' years through the NATO appointment).

PART II: Various aspects of the Korean armistice negotiations (incl. obstacles faced, political vs. military decisions, Eisenhower's visit, comparison of Korean situation with that of Vietnam); concerns involving Southeast Asia (incl. U.S. policy towards emerging nations, overview of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam); feelings about U.S. interests in Asia generally; Japanese-U.S. relations; the U.S. space program (incl. early conflicts involving the Redstone Arsenal project, the development of NASA); the development of SIOP, the Single Integrated Operational Plan, for strategic defense; the Lebanon decision; anecdote involving President Eisenhower and the Pentagon; evolving nuclear policy from Truman through Kennedy.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by David C. Berliner, Part I, November 21, 1972; Part II, December 19, 1972]