TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

General Clifton

My thoughts in regard to the FOOTBALL, Presidential Emergency Action Documents, SIOP, secure communications, and responsibilities of the Military Aide are:

I know you want to reduce the weight of the FOOTBALL, but I am sure we can find strong couriers who are capable of carrying an additional pound or two of paper.

I have completed a quick review and it appears these were last reviewed by OEP in 1962. I think it vital that OEP have all PEADS reviewed and then submit to the President those which passed their review for his approval. Of those we now carry, only a few bear Presidential approval, and, in all cases, were approved by President Eisenhower.

I am in full agreement with the Attorney General's concern that Presidential actions in a crisis situation be legal. However, in such a situation, the primary necessity is to insure the essential actions be completed and be completed before something happens to the President himself. However, in my mind, there is a distinct possibility that someone would reach the President,
3. Weight Reduction of FOOTBALL.
4. I do not feel that the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs should be interposed between the Secretary of Defense and the President in matters relating to the execution of the SIOP.