

Serial: 00015 **S**

12 JAN 1954

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SUBJECT: Release of M-209's to the French

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2  
Department of the Army  
The Pentagon

1. In October 1953, the Department of the Army received a request from the French for release of 350 M-209's for use in Indo-China. The matter was referred to me for decision, and on 16 October 1953, I informed General McClure orally that I could not concur in the proposal to release these machines until certain negotiations with Mr. Magelin then in progress were concluded.

2. At the 97th (Special) USCIB meeting, I reported that Mr. Magelin had informed me he was not in a position to supply the French with the machines required and stated he would have no objection to the U.S. supplying them. Accordingly, I can now concur in the Department of the Army proposal to release these machines to the French.

(sgd) Ralph J. Canine

RALPH J. CANINE  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director

Copy furnished:  
Executive Secretary, USCIB

cc: AG  
C/S  
B/ASST  
DCS/P  
PROD  
C/SEC  
P/P

"M/R ATTACHED"

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M/R: On 16 October 1953, the Director informed General McClure orally that he could not concur in the release of 350 M-209's to the French for use in Indo-China, until such time as negotiations with Mr. Hagelin were concluded. Mr. Hagelin has now informed the Director that he cannot supply the machines to the French and stated he would have no objection to the U.S. supplying them. The Director reported this turn of events to USCIB members at the 97th meeting and stated that he would withdraw his earlier veto in writing. Although the Director informed General Trudeau (Ass't C of S, G-2) orally that there was no longer any bar to releasing the machines to the French, instant letter makes the concurrence a matter of record for Department of the Army. M/R prepared 8 Jan 54.

ICDR P. J. Karl, P/P, 60548/mp

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