EDITORIAL

THE NATIONAL GUARD

Resolution adopted by voice vote, without dissent, by the United States Conference of Governors, at Hershey, Penna., 3 July 1962

WHEREAS, International Communism by aggressive military action and subversion continues efforts to gain control over Free World areas and thus to threaten the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the unrelenting pressures of the Soviet Union in Berlin and the current military offensives of Communist forces in Southeast Asia forecast the shape and intensity of aggression we must expect in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the capability for waging conventional war and other forms of aggression, the Soviet Union possesses a large stockpile of nuclear weapons and delivery systems capable of placing such weapons on targets in the Continental United States; and

WHEREAS, because of the war potential of Communist nations, the United States must maintain defense forces of such strength and diversity as to deter or contain aggression by conventional forces and to deter nuclear attack, and should deterrence fail, have the ability and the strength to recover and retaliate; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet such increased demands for forces in trouble areas overseas, to have adequate strategic reserves in the United States, to provide for a rapid general mobilization, and to be prepared to achieve recovery from nuclear attack, it is necessary that we have a large, flexible defense force, both Active and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, little more than half of our conventional forces are located in the United States and much of that force is manned by nuclear attack; and

WHEREAS, to have a depth in defense necessary to sustain military operations and to assure a capability to recover from nuclear attack, the United States must have a large and ready reserve force widely dispersed; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard has consistently furnished the Department of Army and the Department of Air Force with the types of organizations requested and has maintained these organizations at high levels of readiness, as evidenced by the speed with which the state forces responded in the Berlin crises and the manner in which they carried out assigned missions; and

WHEREAS, the determination of the Army National Guard to maintain and increase the professional competence of its units, and individual members is evidenced by acceptance of active defense missions and by organizing Special Forces units and operating state officer candidate schools; and

WHEREAS, the several states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are prepared to furnish the Department of Defense the type of units requested at desired levels of readiness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1962 Governors' Conference that:

1. The Army National Guard be continued at an average strength of 400,000.

2. The existing units of the Army National Guard be retained, including its 77 combat divisions, and that new type units required by the Active Army to assure a properly balanced and modern force be achieved by conversion of existing units to combat and combat support types required and be comparable in size to units converted.

3. The strength of non-priority divisions and non-divisions of the ARNG be manned at levels sufficient to permit effective training and thus assure the maintenance of all divisions and non-

4. The Secretary of Defense be urged to direct a study of the proposed reorganization of the Army National Guard and that such a study be undertaken with a view to effecting changes in the Army National Guard structure at the same time as the conversion to the ROAP concept is implemented. Further, that the requirement in existing law that the President direct the Army for an adequate, organized, trained and equipped recovery force be given due consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors support the principle of greater readiness in the Nation's reserve forces, but oppose firmly any plan which would drastically reduce the size and effectiveness of the National Guard in many states and over-all reduce the capability of the Army National Guard to fulfill its historic role as the first line reserve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no action be taken in any state with respect to proposals made to the individual states until the Advisory Committee on the National Guard has had further opportunity to study the details of the proposals and to confer again with the Secretary of Defense.

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THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

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EDITORIAL:
The National Guard ... The Governors' Resolution

DEAR GUARDMEN: This issue of "The National Guardian" finds tens of thousands of Army National Guardmen in the final stages of a 15-month hitch of active duty which immeasurably enhanced the Nation's ability to cope with a threatened crisis.

We plan to devote next month's issue largely to a comprehensive review of what they accomplished and how they accomplished it; of problems they encountered and how they met them; of Guardmen's and others' thoughts on how to forestall some of the "bugs" that crept into this mobilization, as in all mobilizations. This, too, will embody our more formal "welcome home" message.

With this issue, the "ON GUARD" section in which we've highlighted many units' activities and accomplishments will pass from our pages. We deeply appreciate the splendid cooperation of Active Forces Public Information personnel, Guardmen, and others who have contributed material for these pages.

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OUR COVER: Distinct surprise for about 50 Air Guardmen returning from overseas "Berlin Crisis" duty was a personal meeting with their Commanding-in-Chief, who arrived from Hysanirror about the same time as the Guardsmen. Meeting President Kennedy in the cover photo is A/C J. T. Jensen of Jefferson, Mass. (Photo by Wide World)