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THE BERLIN AIR LIFT

21 JUNE - 31 DECEMBER 1948

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Appendix III

AIR HEADQUARTERS
BRITISH AIR FORCES OF OCCUPATION (GERMANY), UNITED STATES
AIR FORCES IN EUROPE, ROYAL AIR FORCE,
C/O B.A.O.R.I.

APO 633
U.S. ARMY

SUBJECT: Letter Directive for Combined USAF-RAF Airlift
Task Force

TO : Major General William H. Tunner, US Air Forces.

1. By agreement with the Air Officer Commander-in-Chief, British Air Forces of Occupation, announcement is hereby made of the establishment of Headquarters, Combined Airlift Task Force. Major General William H. Tunner, USAF, is designated Commander thereof and shall be located in Wiesbaden for the time being, Air Commodore J. W. F. Merer, No. 46 Group, R.A.F. is designated Deputy Commander and will be located at Buckeburg. The Combined Airlift Task Force shall be organized generally along the lines indicated in the attached organizational charts.
2. The purpose of this organization is to merge the heretofore coordinated, but independent, USAF-RAF Airlift efforts in order that the resources of each participating service may be utilized in the most advantageous manner. Its primary mission is to deliver to Berlin, in a safe and efficient manner, the maximum tonnage possible, consistent with the combined resources of equipment and personnel made available.
3. Matters of policy and emergency planning of mutual concern to USAFE and BAFO, and effecting the Combined Airlift Task Force, will be agreed upon by the Commanding General, USAFE and the Air Officer Commander-in-Chief, BAFO prior to dissemination as combined USAFE-BAFO directives. Matters not covered by combined policy directives and requiring immediate action will be acted upon by the Commanding General, Combined Airlift Task Force and information of action taken will be forwarded expeditiously to USAFE and BAFO with request for future guidance. Routine matters related to base logistics and personnel administration, singularly peculiar to either USAFE or BAFO, will be handled as heretofore; that is, directly with the air base concerned. Each of these major commands will provide

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complete support at bases used solely by its own operating forces, and each will be responsible for administrative functions at bases within its own Zones or Sectors when such bases are utilized operationally by air units of the other. The Task Force will monitor this support and advise USAFE and BAFO Headquarters of any deficiencies which adversely affect the mission of the Task Force.

4. The major functions of the Combined Airlift Task Force shall be generally operational in nature rather than administrative. The Commanding General, is given command over all U.S. units and operational control of R.A.F. units to which aircraft are assigned and which are directly engaged in the Airlift effort. He is granted the authority to direct Wing, Base and Station Commander, as a first priority mission, to provide within the limits of their capabilities administrative and logistical support for his operating units. He is further granted the authority and responsibility to regulate all air traffic entering or leaving the air-space utilized by Airlift aircraft in the delivery of supplies to Berlin, subject to such policies as may be jointly issued from time to time by USAFE and BAFO. He is also empowered to direct the operational aspects of those elements of air traffic control agencies, facilities and services assigned to support the Airlift in order to insure their proper contribution to the Airlift. He will keep the Commanding General, USAFE and the A.O. Cin C. BAFO informed as to the progress of the Airlift effort, and as to major difficulties encountered in the accomplishment of his mission.

5. Normal channels of communication for Airlift Task Force are through USAFE or BAFO Headquarters; however, authority is granted for the Commanding General, Combined Airlift Task Force to communicate directly with the following on matters indicated.

- (a) EUCOM, BAOR and BICO relative to supplies being transported to and from Berlin, including but not limiting to maintenance of backlogs, safe and expeditious handling of supplies of airports, and management of cargo handlers.
- (b) Headquarters Military Air Transport Service and R.A.F. Transport Command relative to personnel, technical and training matters.

/s/ A.P.M. Saunders
SIR ARTHUR P.M. SAUNDERS,
AIR MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

/s/ Curtis E. LeMay
CURTIS E. LEMAY
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commanding.

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