

Eisenhower 'Might' Use Atom Bomb

Conditions Would Need To Be Weighed, Senate Committees Are Told

WASHINGTON, March 11 (INS).—General Eisenhower has told Congress he would use the atomic bomb instantly if he believed it to America's "net advantage" in event of an attack by Russia.

The European supreme commander, in secret testimony made available Sunday night, advised senators on Feb. 1 that "no Russian army in the world" could destroy an Allied army of a dozen divisions before it could be evacuated or placed in a position of safety.

Eisenhower also told the Senate foreign relations and armed services committees behind closed doors:

1. If the Russian leaders should declare war now "they are really fools." Eisenhower said the Soviets could not win instantly and would "face a long, bitter struggle of attrition against the United States."

2. The leaders in the Kremlin "like their jobs" and would risk losing them in a global war.

3. He is firmly opposed to a ceiling or ratio on American troops sent to western Europe but believes Congress has a responsibility to exercise "broad overall direction."

4. It would be "fateful and hopeless" if the U. S. is divided at home on "basic principles." Eisenhower said Congress then "might as well assign me to the middle of the Atlantic."

5. A dozen American divisions could retire to the Breton Peninsula in France and "the Russians couldn't touch them to save their souls" because of Allied air and sea protection.

Would Weigh Advantage.

Eisenhower was asked about the A-bomb by Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, who told the general that there was some opinion opposing American use of the atomic weapon first.

Eisenhower replied that he would have to decide whether the military advantage outweighed the moral reaction its use might provoke.

He explained: "To my mind, the use of the atomic bomb would be on this basis: Does it advantage me or does it not when I get into war?"

"Now if I felt that the material destruction I was going to accomplish was not equal to some moral or great reaction otherwise to this act then I would abstain.

"If I thought the net was on my side, I would use it instantly because I proceed from this basis: The United States is not going to declare war or conduct an aggressive campaign.

"It is going merely to defend itself, and if someone, in spite of its peaceful purposes, jumps onto

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it I believe in using what we have in defending ourselves."

Eisenhower also testified that by the end of 1952 in the European defense program "we ought to begin to feel pretty good and really be over the hump."

The general said Americans should not "buy completely" Russian propaganda about its own strength. He predicted that the satellite countries would be "one of their (the Soviets) greatest sources of weakness."

The general said he did not belittle "the danger of a powder keg war" but neither did he ignore the factors which would delay or postpone outright war.

Senator Russell of Georgia, chairman of the armed services committee, asked about the danger of a small American or Allied force being destroyed by Russia in Western Europe.

Eisenhower said he would "shake" at a defense with only a few troops, but added:

"You give a small army, of a dozen divisions for example, and there is no Russian army in the world, short of some catastrophe that I couldn't possibly foresee, that could destroy them before we could do something about it."

Eisenhower emphasized that he has no intention of matching the Russian army man for man. He said further that Allied forces strong enough to hold at the Rhine or Elbe Rivers could not be construed as an aggressive threat to Russia.

Eisenhower testified that the development of defenses against Snorkel submarines is "encouraging" and concerning his own assignment, he said he had "probably the most difficult job ever given a military man."

Discussing comparative forces, Eisenhower said that with far less strength than Russia in ground forces he thought the North Atlantic Allies could make "rather significant portions of Western Europe safe" in event of an attack.