



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

18 APR 1983

Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Enclosed is a draft of proposed legislation, "To amend title 10, United States Code, to place the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the national military chain of command, and to remove limitations on the Joint Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

This proposal is part of the legislative program of the Department of Defense for the 98th Congress. The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of the Congress. It is recommended that the proposal be enacted by the Congress.

Purpose of the Legislation

The purpose of the proposed legislation is twofold. The proposal would place the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the national military chain of command, and would promote the efficiency of the Joint Staff by eliminating statutory restrictions that are disadvantageous to the effectiveness of that organization.

Presently, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the central figure in military planning; the rendering of military advice to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense; and the execution of orders emanating from the President as the Commander in Chief.