

SFChronicle

Quemoy--

DEC 31 1974

A-Weapons

An 'Option'

Washington

The Defense Department confirmed yesterday that possible use of "limited tactical nuclear weapons" was one of the "several planning options available to the President" during the 1958 crisis over the Nationalist Chinese islands of Quemoy and Matsu.

But, a spokesman said in response to questions from last Friday and again yesterday, the Pentagon "does not have readily at hand all of the pertinent messages and documents of that period" with which to answer the questions raised by a Jack Anderson column Friday. 27 DEC

The Pentagon's short written response said the column in question "refers to a top-secret Rand report which deals with the contingency planning and decision-making process at the time of the 1958 Taiwan Strait crisis." Anderson said that Morton Halperin prepared the report in 1967 while with the Rand Corp. "think tank."

Anderson's column was said to be based on a copy of the Halperin report that Daniel Ellsberg, also formerly with Rand, had kept in his personal files, which were stolen a few weeks ago from his home in Mill Valley, Calif. They ended up in the care of a House subcommittee after police authorities who recovered the files were blocked by the Justice Department from returning them to Ellsberg, the columnist wrote.

Anderson said that the "top brass at the Pentagon at the time deceived President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Dulles and other advisers into thinking that available planes could not accommodate conventional bombs powerful enough to knock out underground Communist Chinese munitions dumps and gun emplacements that were used to attack the islands in 1958."

Associated Press