

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL LEONARD F. CHAPMAN  
Director of Naturalization and Immigration  
Former Commandant of the Marine Corps

1. I had lunch with Chappy at 12 o'clock, 5 November. I reported to him on the general efforts that Paul Nitze and I were making to buck up the country's defense efforts.
2. I made mention of the call on Rumsfeld.
3. Chappy volunteered to help in any way he could. I need to pass this thought on to Paul Nitze.
4. Chappy commented that when it came time for him to bite the bullet and cut the Marine Corps from 300,000 down to 200,000 rapidly in order to shape up the disciplinary situation and recreate a hard-type, lean-mean outfit, he did so in the way he always did on tough problems. He made the decision to do it, sent out the operating directives, and briefed the Press; then told the Secretary of the Navy, John Chafee, who like all other Secretaries couldn't possibly reverse the Marine Corps decision once it is made public.