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GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
to the
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.

73407

May 29, 1954

Mr. Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strauss:

Herewith is the statement of the Committee's opinion with respect to the weapons test program. This statement is an integral part of the report of the Chairman of the General Advisory Committee to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission on the 40th Meeting of the GAC;

The Committee wishes to reiterate its opinion that our test program is one of the most important elements in our whole weapons program. Without it, we could not prove out the advances which are being made in the weapons laboratories to increase the magnitude, the efficiency, and the variety of weapons in our stockpile. We therefore believe that if any international arrangement were made to curtail or abolish these tests, it should only be made under such arrangements that we obtain an equivalent value, or greater, for the security of the United States.

With respect to your question as to whether a violation of an agreement could be determined, our best opinion is that if the weapon tested were in the megaton range that we would almost certainly detect the effects even though it were a deep underwater explosion. On the other hand, we are not certain at the present time whether this effect would be distinguishable from the impact of a meteor. In any event, it was our feeling that it would be much better to be certain that no test is made through some system of inspection rather than to try to prove that such a test had been made, since such a procedure would result only in long and inconclusive discussions.

Sincerely yours,

I. I. Rabi
Chairman

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
Carl Wilson 4/11/85
REVIEWED BY *HR Schmitt* 8/12/85
DATE

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