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FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



September 20, 1954

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MEMORANDUM TO: Elmer B. Staats, Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board

FROM: John A. DeChant, Director of Public Affairs
Federal Civil Defense Administration

SUBJECT: Proposed Statement on Radioactive Fall-out.

As you know, the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project and the AEC have been engaged in the past several months in evaluating data on radioactive fall-out collected during tests of thermonuclear weapons in the Pacific. Their findings have been made available to this Agency for civil defense planning purposes.

Because of garbled reports and speculation in the press arising from the Japanese fishermen incident last spring, we have been repeatedly urged by State and local civil defense directors to make the facts on fall-out available to them in order that they may be able to plan appropriate defense tactics in their communities.

Both AFSWP and AEC have cleared certain portions of the fall-out data for FCDA planning purposes. (N.E. Special Study Group's Statement of the Problem.) We are now in the process of checking with them a revised draft of this material which the Administrator proposes to review with the State civil defense directors, on a confidential basis, at their forthcoming meeting in Chicago, September 28 through 30. (N.E. Administrator's letter of Sept. 17, 1954 to Lewis L. Strauss, AEC and Charles E. Wilson, DAF.)

As a practical matter it would not be possible for civil defense directors to carry out effective defensive measures at the local level without adequate public understanding of the fall-out problem as a prelude to active participation in test exercises.

Equally important is that we retain the confidence of the American people by going to them as promptly as possible with the facts on all such matters involving their personal safety and the civil defense of the Nation.

MR 88-386-10

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Handwritten notes:
Approved
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Authority MR 88-386-10
By DJH NLE Date 1/14/84

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For these reasons we propose to make a public release of certain parts of the material being discussed with State directors in Chicago next week. (See attached Draft-"FALL-OUT" Release.) We would appreciate it if you could review this material for public release with the appropriate subcommittees of the Operations Coordinating Board at your earliest possible convenience.

Enclosed are 30 copies of the statement by the Administrator to the State civil defense directors, which is transmitted for your background information. Also enclosed are 30 copies of proposed public release on the same subject, which is submitted for your comments and suggestions.

Mr. Spear and Mr. Lyman will be in Washington from Friday through Monday and will be available to discuss the matter with you or your associates.

John Edgar Hoover

Detachments destroyed per
telephone instructions from
Mr. Althaus 9/23/54

M. Jensen



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