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Number 1 of 5 copies, Series A.

406877

October 21, 1956

CHRONOLOGY OF U.S. STUDY OF NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM



February 5, 1954

AEC Commissioner Murray proposes to President that U.S. government consider a moratorium on large yield tests.

✓  
April 2, 1954

Prime Minister Nehru proposes a "stand-still agreement" on tests of nuclear weapons.

★  
Early April 1954

Secretary Dulles proposes to the President that cessation of H-bomb tests be explored, and President asks Admiral Strauss and Admiral Radford to study the matter.

April 7, 1954

President, in discussing current U.S. Pacific test at his press conference, indicates US sees no need to develop larger weapons.

April 12, 1954

Secretary Dulles advises Prime Minister Eden of U.S. study of test moratorium.

May 6, 1954

NSC discusses question and requests report from State, Defense, and AEC.

June 23, 1954

Secretary Dulles submits to NSC a recommendation that the US not agree to a test moratorium.

✓  
June 24, 1954

NSC adopts position that US should not agree at this time to a test moratorium; requesting that disarmament policy review be continued and expedited.

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Authority

HR 95-174#1

by

JMS

NLE Date

8/2/95

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October 21, 1954

During Paris talks, Sir Harold Caccia suggested to Mr. Merchant, on behalf of Eden, that a test moratorium proposal could be made to the USSR without risk of acceptance and with propaganda advantage.

November 10, 1954

Secretary approves memorandum by Gerard C. Smith recommending following inter-agency study that this proposal not be made

November 20, 1954

Secretary Dulles persuades Mendes-France not to propose a test moratorium in a forthcoming speech before the General Assembly.

February 12, 1955

*disinterest*  
Premier Bulganin in an interview indicates Soviet ~~disarmament~~ in a test moratorium, while willing to discuss any such proposal.

February 15, 1955

AEC released a public statement on fallout from large scale nuclear explosions.

February 23, 1955

President at a news conference stated the US sees nothing to be gained by a separate ban on thermonuclear tests outside of a decent and proper disarmament.

March 14, 1955

AEC Commissioner Murray proposed to the President that further consideration be given to a worldwide moratorium on the testing of large thermonuclear weapons.

May 25, 1955

Secretary Dulles approved the conclusions of a memorandum to the President prepared by an inter-agency group, to the effect that a moratorium on H-bomb testing would not be in the interest of the US and should not be agreed to except as a part of a comprehensive safeguarded disarmament agreement.

*Basis Policy Decision.* →

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