

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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- 2 -

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

Premier Bulganin in an interview indicates Soviet ^{disinterest} ~~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.

Basic Policy Decision. →

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- 3 -

June 20, 1955

President approved the above conclusion and so advised Commissioner Murray.

August 4, 1955

US proposes General Assembly agenda ~~with~~ *item* relating to the establishment of a Scientific Committee to compile and disseminate information on radiation effects.



November 29, 1955

Soviet radio announces USSR is ready to stop nuclear tests if others will do the same.

November 29, 1955

Secretary Dulles states at press conference that question of suspension of nuclear testing has been studied for a great many months and no formula has been found which would be both dependent and in the interests of the US.

December 24, 1955

Pope's Christmas message expresses concern over continued nuclear testing while recognizing importance of broad disarmament agreement.

June 21, 1956

Eden in a political broadcast indicated interest in an agreement to limit or regulate tests.

February 14, 1956

Kruschev stated willingness to agree as a separate step on a discontinuation of thermonuclear tests.

April 23, 1956

Stevenson proposal.

April 25, 1956

President at his press conference states that US has no more interest in developing bigger nuclear weapons.

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- 4 -

June 7, 1956

Prime Minister Eden announces forthcoming thermonuclear tests and states readiness to discuss methods of regulating and limiting tests.

June 13, 1956

National Academy of Sciences study on radiation effects published.



June 19, 1956

Admiral Strauss announces the "clean bomb" development.

→ June 21
July 16, 1956

Shepilov states Soviet readiness to reach immediate agreement on termination of nuclear tests.

July 23, 1956

Eden again states UK readiness to discuss limitation of nuclear tests.

27
August 30 (?)

Secretary approves staff exploration with other agencies of a possible US test limitation proposal.

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