

April 30, 1958

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*Foster and Jaw*  
*to talk further reference*  
*to find same*  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

On April 26 I met with the recently appointed group of disarmament advisers: General Gruenther, General Smith, Robert Lovett and John McCloy. Lewis Strauss, Donald Quarles and James Killian were also present to state their views. We had a very thorough discussion of the present situation.



There was a consensus that steps must be taken to put clearly before the world the U.S. devotion to peace and to reduction of the arms burden. Only by concrete actions can we counteract the false picture, all too prevalent abroad, of the United States as a militaristic nation.

Nuclear testing was recognized to be a key to progress in this direction. So long as we continue to insist upon our freedom to test, the wide opposition to our position shields the Soviet Union from pressure to agree to the positive U.S. proposals for the stopping of bomb production and for "open skies". Continued testing will undoubtedly lead to further refinement of our nuclear arsenal -- though Dr. Killian makes a persuasive case that continued testing will help the Soviet weapons program more than it will ours. But the slight military gains appear to be outweighed by the political losses, which may well culminate in the moral isolation of the United States in the coming years.

This analysis was accepted by the four advisers. They cautioned, however, that we should not enhance Soviet prestige by remaining inflexible on the nuclear testing issue until a Summit meeting. U.S. agreement to a test suspension at the Summit, they seemed to feel, would give the Soviet Union a double victory: acceptance of the Soviet thesis on nuclear testing, and confirmation of the Soviet argument that

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meaningful agreement can only be reached at the Summit. Rather, we should make known our readiness to agree to an inspected test suspension in a manner and at a time of our own choosing. By thus disposing of this issue we might reduce pressures for a Summit meeting or, if it were held, assure that the meeting would deal with broad political issues which, it was felt, would be the proper function of any meeting that you attended.

It was suggested that any announcement we made on the subject of suspension of testing might be formulated as a suspension for six months, for example, on the assumption that an agreement would within that period be reached as to the detailed nature of the inspection required. If this agreement were reached, then there would be a further suspension of say a year on the assumption that during that period the system would be installed. If at the end of the period it actually was installed and functioning, then the suspension would continue on the assumption that progress was being made on other aspects of disarmament. Perhaps we could indicate that any resumption would be limited to confined underground tests or to very high altitude tests, neither of which would pollute the atmosphere.



By coupling our announcement on nuclear testing with a reiteration of our proposals on the nuclear cut-off and inspection against surprise attack, we could put the ball back in the Soviet court on these matters as well as on their willingness to accept inspection of a test suspension.

The nature of our discussion was such that perhaps this summary gives a greater impression of definiteness than was, in fact, the case. However, I felt that there was a consensus among the four disarmament advisers along these lines. I do not know, however, that Admiral Strauss and Mr. Quarles wholly agreed.

I believe that the time is now ripe for a decision that we will agree to a contingent nuclear test suspension after completion of the testing program now under way, on such conditions as are suggested.

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LIST OF MATERIALS TO BE PHOTOCOPIED

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M. Demarre

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Collection and/or Series (e.g. OF; PPF; Mitchell Papers)	Box No.	File No. and/or Folder Title (e.g. 41-A; 62-B; Civil Rights)	Correspondents and/or Subject (e.g. Memo, Smith to Jones)	Date of Docs.	Number of Pages
NSC, Operations Coordinating Board (OCB) Central Files	8	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (Oct 53-8/54)	Memo to Staats w/ Attachment	5/9/54	3 ✓
"	"	"	Press Release; Re Pacific Tests	1/8/54	1 ✓
"	"	"	Press Release Accelerator, Brookhaven	1/10/54	3 ✓
"	"	"	Press Release Re Pacific Test	1/8/54	1 ✓
"	"	"	Letter to Hirsch w/attach. Re Pacific Test	12/24/53	2 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (2) (10/53-8/54)	Staff Studies; Re: Coordinating Information...	3/19/54	13 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (3) [10/53-8/54]	Memorandum for Board assistants w/ attachment	3/30/54	15 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (5) (10/53-8/54)	memo to Hirsch, Thomas in Public Reporting on Castle	4/22/54	2 ✓
"	"	"	memo to Board assist. Re: Atomic Energy tests	4/22/54	2 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (7) (10/53-8/54)	Memo to Staats w/ attachments Re: Japan	6/4/54	4 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (8) (10/53-8/54)	New Atomic film Promises. ... w/ attachments	7/23/54	3 ✓
"	"	"	Note by the OCB staff Re: Recent Rad. fallout...	7/7/54	2 ✓
"	"	"	memo to R Hirsch, Re Jodine-131 w/attach	7/6/54	2 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #1) (9) (10/53-8/54)	memo for Mr. Dalton Re: meetings at AEC...	8/20/54	5 ✓
"	"	"	Check List of actions to Reduce ...	8/12/54	1 ✓
"	"	"	OCB - meeting # 5 memo for Record	8/12/54	4 ✓
"	"	"	memo to P. Hirsch Re SE. ASIA... w/attach	8/9/54	7 ✓
"	"	"	Note by OCB staff Re: Guidance of Soviet...	8/5/54	3 ✓
"	"	OCB 009. [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (1) (9/54-2/55)	Preliminary Outline of An International Atomic Energy	9/8/54	7 ✓
"	"	"	OCB meeting 6 memo for the Record	9/9/54	4 ✓
"	"	"	Extract from OCB 337 minutes	9/8/54	1 ✓
"	"	OCB 009. [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (2) (9/54-2/55)	Letter to Staats, Re: Nevada test series	9/20/54	1 ✓

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NSC Operations Coordinating Board & (OCB) Central Files	8	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (2) (September 5/4-2/55)	Memo to Staats, Re: Proposed Statement on Cuba	9/20/54	2 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (3) (9/54-2/55)	Draft Press Release	10/5/54	5 ✓
"	"	"	Note by OCB staff Rep w/A Attachment	10/4/54 <sup>9/29/54</sup>	3 ✓
"	"	"	Letter Mr. Smith, Re: foreign sales of isotope	10/1/54	1 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (4) (9/54-2/55)	Draft #2, Progress Report on Nuclear Energy Project	11/1/54	8 ✓
"	"	"	Drafts Progress Report on Nuclear	10/25/54	8 ✓
"	"	"	Memo to Hirsch Re: material for Status Rep	10/19/54	5 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (5) (Sept 1954-2/55)	Memo to F. Dennis, Re Statement of Marshall	11/2/54	2 ✓
"	"	"	Memo to Loper, Re: Final Draft of NPG...	11/9/54	1 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (6) (9/54-2/55)	Memo to Staats, effect of New Weapons	12/10/54	8 ✓
"	"	"	Operations Coordinating Board Progress Report of OCB	12/1/54	7 ✓
"	"	"	Memorandum of meeting Working Group on Middle	12/6/54	2 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (7) (9/54-2/55)	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (7) (9/54-2/55)	12/10/54	7 ✓
"	"	"	Memo of meeting 10th meeting	12/20/54	2 ✓
"	"	"	Memo to Staats w/attached New article	12/27/54	3 ✓
"	"	"	Memo for Morse Swisberg, Re: final Draft	12/16/54	1 ✓
"	"	"	Letter to Hirsch A New Look at the H-bomb	12/15/54	6 ✓
"	"	"	Memo to Staats Subject: Major Emerging...	12/14/54	1 ✓
"	"	OCB 000.9 [Atomic Energy] (File #2) (8) (9/54-2/55)	Memo of meeting, 14th meeting (OCB)	2/7/55	1 ✓
"	"	"	Memo of meeting 13th meeting	1/27/55	2 ✓
"	"	"	Draft, Special Report to OCB on Information	1/25/55	13 ✓
"	"	"	Memo of meeting 12 meeting (OCB)	1/20/55	1 ✓