

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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3 March 1955

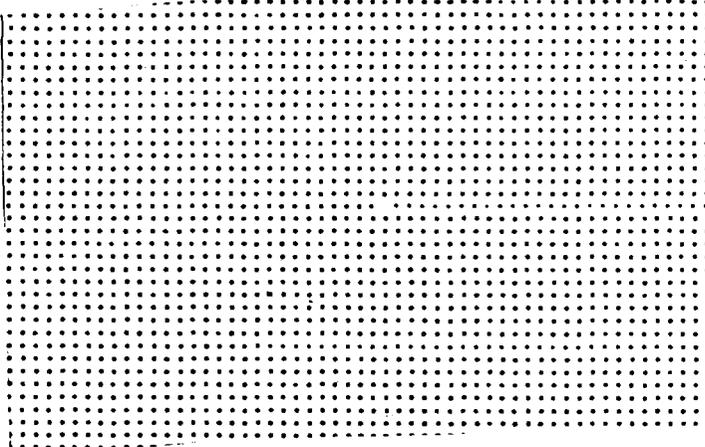
DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETIONS
Agency Case DOE 890793A-11
NLE Case MR 89-357 #1
By lc NLE Date 1/10/80

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for sending me the excerpt from Cabot Lodge's letter concerning Sir Winston Churchill's remark as to his unhappiness over the fact that we have not yet achieved that cooperation with the U.K. which is so desirable in the atomic energy field.

My purpose in this note is to tell you the reason and to suggest a course of action which might be helpful meanwhile.

(1)



We are negotiating actively to ameliorate this. Until this can be done, however, an agreement cannot be concluded.

This has no bearing on the military aspects of co-operation, however, and in that area, progress is being made. The Atomic Energy Commission has been giving serious study and consideration to atomic military information which the Joint Chiefs of Staff plan to convey to NATO. I anticipate that this will be resolved very promptly and without any significant reservations on the part of the Atomic Energy Commission. Quite possibly, Sir Winston has no information that this matter is progressing so favorably. Attached is a summary of items which I anticipate the AEC will agree are suitable for communication to NATO.

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- (2) I now come to a matter in which I think we could make a gesture which should be very pleasing to the U.K., particularly to Sir Winston. According to reports, the Australians have objected to large weapons testing in Australia where the British have hitherto conducted their weapons tests. My suggestion is that we might offer them the use of our Pacific Proving Ground (i.e., Bikini-Eniwetok) at a time which would not conflict with our own tests. They could not but regard this as a friendly gesture. If they accepted it, we would no longer be the sole target of Communist propaganda and the sole recipient of irrational protests from Nehru and others. A further advantage, of course, is that there might be some intelligence benefits to be derived.

Will you let me know what you think of this?

Respectfully yours,

Lewis L. Strauss

Lewis L. Strauss



The President
The White House

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ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE CONVEYED TO NATO

1. For planning purposes, general magnitude of the number of atomic weapons, by types, yields, and fuzing options, to be made available to North Atlantic Treaty Organization commands.
2. The extent to which there is interchangeability of nuclear components among the various types of weapons.
3. Effects to be expected from the detonation of nuclear weapons under the various conditions of bursts.
4. General description of basic safety features.
5. Weapons which can be carried by the different types of delivery vehicles.
6. To the extent that it will influence North Atlantic Treaty Organization planning, the estimated military results, in general terms, to be expected from the strategic air offensive.
7. Soviet capabilities for atomic warfare.



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