

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25 D.C.

July 27, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD.

SUBJECT: U. S. Army Chemical Corps Report on Screening Heat from  
A-Bombs.

1. Your attention is invited to the enclosing clipping from today's Washington Post to the effect that the Army Chemical Corps has now reported that up to 90 per cent of the heat from atomic and hydrogen bombs can be shut off by smoke screens. This was tested at the Nevada Proving Grounds last spring.

2. Since information of this type is of the utmost political utility in West Germany, I have called Col. Bond's attention to this, have alerted USIA to getting the full text moved overseas to Western Europe, especially to Germany, have alerted Civil Defense as to the political desirability of generating the most favorable technical comment for follow-up purposes.

3. Defense is sending the full text of the Report to the office.

cc: Col. Bond  
Don Irwin

Attachment:

July 27th Washington Post clipping.

OCB/SPS:RHirsch:ams  
7-27-55

# Smoke Screens Can Shut Off Most Of Heat From A-Bombs, Army Reports

International News Service

The Army Chemical Corps reported yesterday that up to 90 per cent of the heat from atomic and hydrogen bombs can be shut off by smoke screens.

Such screens are similar to those used to hide movements of ships and troops.

Maj. Gen. William H. Creasy, chief chemical officer, said the smoke defense was tested during last spring's atomic explosion series in Nevada.

An analysis showed "thermal radiation was reduced by 75 to 90 per cent," he reported.

The results are regarded even more significant for H-bombs. The super-bombs are capable,



Gen. Creasy

under clear atmospheric conditions, of causing heat casualties far beyond the range of direct radioactivity. Serious burns can result as much as 30 miles from the center of a blast.

Creasy said the smoke screen "has no effect whatever on the blast and shock of the bomb." He added: "However, by greatly decreasing the range of the thermal (heat) effects it reduces the range of damage from an atomic weapon to the range of blast damage."

The smoke used in the Nevada tests was described as "a

vaporized petroleum product known as fog oil."

Previously Creasy has said a city equipped with inexpensive oil burners could throw up a protective smoke cloud in as little as 15 minutes.

The report said the action of the smoke screen is the same as that of clouds in the sky which block the sun's heat and light. It said: "the (smoke) cloud does not absorb the heat; it reflects heat from each tiny droplet. Because of this, the cloud itself is not appreciably heated."

## Atomic Parley Called

Reuters

BRUSSELS, July 26—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has called a conference on the peaceful use of atomic energy in Brussels on August 1 and 2.

## Naval Units in Scotland

Reuters

EDINBURGH, Scotland, July 26—Nine units of the United States Fleet arrived in the Firth of Forth today for a six-day visit, led by the battleship USS Wisconsin.