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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Richard Hirsch, Executive Secretary
Operations Coordinating Board

DATE: April 22, 1954

407738

FROM : Morse Salisbury, Director
Division of Information Services *MS*



SUBJECT: THEMES IN PUBLIC REPORTING ON OPERATION CASTLE

Attached is my summary on the discussion of reporting themes for CASTLE at the Tuesday meeting.

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Themes that might be developed in the public reporting on Operation CASTLE were discussed at the working group meeting on April 20. The net of the discussion was as follows:

1. ~~Wechsler of OSIA commented that it may be a mistake to report on this or any other operation as if it were a thing in itself; that the reporting on weapons tests should be a part of reporting on weapons policies and status; the whole matter should be routinized, and test series should be portrayed not as isolated dramatic events but as part of a process. There was general agreement that this approach would tend to introduce balance into the public reporting in this field.~~
 - (a) Further to routinize weapons tests reporting and place these events in perspective it was suggested that the reporting on them be put in the context of the advance of nuclear science and applications in all fields.
 - (b) For further general theme development it was suggested that the NSC 151 series be consulted and it be determined if the objectives therein stated remained valid; if so that these objectives be pursued in the public reporting of CASTLE and all weapons work; if not that moves be made to bring about revision.
 - (c) As for specific lines of thought within the context of weapons development which might be managed as sub-themes, the following were suggested:
 - (1) Re-emphasize the deterrent effects on aggression of the U.S. position in weapons development.
 - (2) Reiterate the thought in Mr. Strauss' statement at Presidential press conference that we are reaching toward the limits of weapons development and as we attain it will be able to devote more manpower and resources to peaceful atomic science and art.
 - (3) Use the public reporting on CASTLE to debunk the widespread fantasies about effects of radiation on sea life, ocean currents, etc.
 - (4) Use whatever guidance is afforded in the weapons reporting field by the statement which will be made by Ambassador Hughes at the North Atlantic Council meeting.

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By DJH NLE Date 1/5/90

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