FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

407760

DATE: Sept. 26, 1955

TO : Mr. E. B. Staats

FROM : Richard Hirsch RH

SUBJECT: Working Group Review of Commissioner Libby's Speech.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

State and USIA have developed certain language changes to minimize possible unfavorable overseas reaction to the proposed speech of Commissioner Libby. At my suggestion, these are being furnished directly to Admiral Foster in view of the close time schedule. We will get drop copies. I drafted a note to Admiral Foster for your signature in the event that you want to reply specifically to his memorandum of September 22nd.

In general, State felt that the speech was not badly drawn and would not clarify the problem but rather obscured it. USIA felt that there was confusion as to whether the effects reported by Dr. Libby were due to fallout from tests or were effects to be expected from wartime use of nuclear weapons. They also felt that specific reference should be made in the speech to the fact that all of this material has previously been publicly available and nothing new of a technical nature was being revealed. Further, USIA objected to publicity about using further weapons tests as a source of direct experimentation for decontamination problems. They felt this was a matter for Civil Defense action without special publicity in a form calculated to arouse the interest of the foreign press.

Attachments:
1. Draft memo to Admiral Foster.
2. Memo to Mr. Staats from Admiral Foster, Sept. 22, with draft speech.

OCB/SPS:RHirsch:GBA