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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1958

MEMORANDUM TO

Admiral Paul F. Foster,
Atomic Energy Commission,
Washington 25, D. C.

General Herbert B. Loper,
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense,
Room 3E 1074,
The Pentagon.

Subject: Voyage of the "Golden Rule" to the Pacific Test Area

I am attaching for your information copy of a letter dated January 8, 1958, to the Secretary of State concerning the voyage of the "Golden Rule" to the Pacific Proving Ground. According to the enclosures to this letter the group plans to sail from San Pedro, California, on February 10. Mr. Spiegel will be in touch with members of your staff concerning what should be done about this matter.

/s/ Philip J. Farley

Philip J. Farley
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Enclosure:

Letter dated Jan. 8, 1958 with enclosures from Non-Violent Action Against Nuclear Weapons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

REPOSITORY NARA COLLEGE PARK
RG 326 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
COLLECTION 1951-1958
BOX No. 186 (NN3-326-93-010)
FOLDER MC&A 1-1 - PROVING GROUNDS VOL III

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NON-VIOLENT ACTION AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS
(A FIRST STEP TO DISARMAMENT)
2006 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA 3, PENNSYLVANIA

January 8, 1958

Mr. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

We want you to have full information regarding the Voyage of the "Golden Rule" to the Pacific test area. Therefore we are sending you a carbon copy of a letter to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, along with a memo of "Summary Information on a Voyage to Eniwetok".

Sincerely,

/s/ George Willoughby

George Willoughby, Chairman

/s/ Lawrence Scott

Lawrence Scott, Coordinator

encs: 2

January 8, 1958

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Eisenhower:

We write to tell you of our intended action regarding the announced spring test explosions of American nuclear weapons.

Four of us, with the support of many others, plan to sail a small vessel into the designated area in the Pacific by April 1st. We intend, come what may, to remain there during the test period, in an effort to halt what we feel is the monstrous delinquency of our government in continuing actions which threaten the well-being of all men. We recognize the equal guilt of Russian authorities in this matter and plan parallel action to carry the same moral and political message to them.

You will find enclosed a statement of our reasons and the facts of our project. We are sensitive to the great responsibility you bear and assure you that there will be no deception in our effort. All action will be taken openly and trustingly in the Gandhian spirit of a non-violent attempt to effect needed change by speaking to the best in all men.

For years we have spoken and written of the suicidal military preparations of the Great Powers, but our voices have been lost in the massive effort of those responsible for preparing this country for war. We mean to speak now with the weight of our whole lives. By our efforts in the Pacific we mean to say to all men, "We are here because stopping preparation for nuclear war is now the principal business of our lives; it is also the principal requirement for the continuation of human life. It is a task in which we would have our nation lead." We, by our action, would be asking our fellow citizens to accept the lesser dangers and the greater opportunity that such an approach implies.

We hope our presence in the test area will speak to that which is deepest in you and in all men: that all men are capable of love.

Please consider us,

Sincerely, your friends,

For Non-Violent Action
Against Nuclear Weapons

George Willoughby, Chairman

Lawrence Scott, Coordinator

For crew of the ketch, "Golden Rule"

Albert Bigelow

William Huntington

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SUMMARY INFORMATION ON A VOYAGE TO ENIWETOK

Further Information from:

Non-Violent Action Against
Nuclear Weapons
2006 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania
RIttenhouse 6-2540

(or) New York City - Ralph Di Gia
Robert W. Gilmore
Rm. 825, 119 Nassau
BEekman 3-0462

Chicago - Robert Pickus
4522 Greenwood
DRexel 3-1605

Pasadena - Robert S. Vogel
1678 Casitas Ave.
SYcamore 8-1882

The Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission have announced they plan further test explosions of nuclear weapons next April. In the past some 50,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean have been used for this purpose. This area is designated "dangerous to all ships; aircraft and personnel entering it" and mariners are warned to remain clear. Four Americans acting under the compulsion of conscience and reason, plan, despite warnings, to sail a small vessel into the designated area before April 1st. They intend to remain there, come what may, in an effort to halt what they believe to be the monstrous delinquency of our government in continuing actions which threaten the well being of all men. They recognize these explosions will be stopped only if this is the will of the American people. They hope by their presence and, if necessary, by their suffering to speak to the reason and conscience of their fellow Americans. A parallel project to carry the same moral and political message to the people and authorities of Russia is being organized.

WHO Albert Smith Bigelow, 51, painter and architect, Cos Cob, Connecticut, married with two daughters and four grandchildren. Fromer Lt. Commander in the Navy (commanded three combat vessels in all areas of World War II). Housing Commissioner for Massachusetts, 1947-48. A director of Unitarian Service Committee, Inc. since 1949. Now member of the Religious Society of Friends, Stamford Monthly Meeting and active in leadership of the New York office of the American Friends Service Committee. Two Hiroshima maidens lived in his home while they received plastic surgery for scars suffered from the first atomic bomb.

William R. Huntington, St. James, Long Island, New York, 50, married with three daughters and two grandchildren. A practicing architect since 1936. World War II conscientious objector, he served as Assistant Director of the Civilian Public Service Camp at Big Flats, New York. Commissioner in Europe for the American Friends Service Committee, 1947-1949, and presently member of Board of Directors of the American Friends Service Committee and chiarman of the Executive Committee of its Foreign Service Section. Member of the Religious Society of Friends, Westbury Monthly Meeting. Chairman of Peace and Social Order Committee of Friends General Conference.

Two other crew members yet to be named.

Non-Violent Action Against Nuclear Weapons, a coordinating committee of leaders of several American organizations working for world peace, which sponsored the protest against test explosions in Nevada last summer, is sponsoring the project and has responsibility for raising funds needed.

HOW & WHEN "Golden Rule", a thirty foot ketch with 500 square feet of sail, a small 24 hp auxiliary motor, and bunks for four, is now being outfitted for the journey. It will sail from San Pedro, California on or about February 10. It will touch at Hawaii and then proceed to the Marshall Islands. It will enter the designated danger area by April 1 and remain there in an effort to witness to all men that it is important that the race to extinction be stopped.

NATURE OF THE PROJECT There will be no deception. All action will be taken openly and trustingly in the Gandhian spirit of a non-violent attempt to effect needed change by speaking to the best in all men. Participants and sponsors oppose Communist or any other totalitarianism.

WHY THIS PARTICULAR ACTION? The time has come when action of this kind is imperative. There are some things which even democratic governments do which those who stand for the dignity and survival of man must oppose. Our leaders are following policies which will greatly intensify the arms race, not helping form an American will to lead the world away from this senseless folly. We have tried: for years we have spoken and written, protesting the folly of seeking to preserve human freedom by developing the ability to kill and hurt millions of other men, women and children. But our voices have been lost in the massive effort of those responsible for preparing this country for war.

We believe more than words are needed if the apparent willingness of Americans to accept any horror in the name of national defense is to be challenged. If the majority in our democracy consciously want these tests, their desire will prevail. We oppose them only by non-violence and self-sacrifice. We speak now with our whole lives. We can no longer acquiesce in these tests.

WHO IS PAYING FOR IT? Concerned Americans across the country. Copies of our finance leaflet available on request. $4,000 of a $20,000 net budget are in hand. A loan has made possible the purchase of the ketch "Golden Rule". Non-Violent Action Against Nuclear Weapons has accepted responsibility for raising the money.

THE RELIGIOUS ROOTS OF OUR ACTION Some of us are Quakers. Most are rooted in the ethics of the Judeo-Christian tradition. We act in the belief that

- each individual, regardless of color, race, creed, nationality or moral condition, is sacred. Any hurt to him, no matter how slight, is, ultimately, injury to the whole human race;
- as individuals, as groups, and as nations, our action is destructive if it violates the ancient concept of the oneness of man;
- punishment, retaliation and revenge cannot reform those who do evil; forgiveness and love are necessary for redemption.

We cannot support war. Nor can we support war preparation. We are convinced that the testing of nuclear weapons is blasphemy.

THE POLITICS OF OUR ACTION There is enormous difficulty in applying these beliefs to the political world. But this is the effort men must make.

We know many Americans believe the tests and our over-all preparation for war are necessary to stop the spread of Communist totalitarianism and to defend our nation. They say "There would be no problem, were it not for the Russians." We share in large

part their perception of the evil of Soviet totalitarianism and the need to resist its growth. But we deny their assumption that military power is the essential, "realistic" means of dealing with this problem. We deny their assumption that the massive engine of modern war can be applied rationally, or controlled to achieve democratic ends. We believe that war strenghtens totalitarianism everywhere. We believe an end to the spread of totalitarianism and the defense of our nation depends primarily on a constructive program for peace. And we have seen that a constructive program for peace cannot be carried on simultaneously with a program for military preparedness.

We believe that all which is most valuable in our heritage would be better protected if the effort, sacrifice, resources, and intelligence devoted to preparation for war were used to develop a program of non-violent national defense, and the constructive programs American leaders talk of but do not undertake. Those interested in our reasoning and the elements of our program for peace are referred to publications like the American Friends Service Committee's studies, "Speak Truth to Power", and "Steps to Peace", and to recent speeches by General Omar Bradley and Cyrus Eaton.

But our action here focuses on the bomb tests themselves. We believe many who do not yet fully reject reliance on military power do see wisdom in America's stopping these tests, as the first step in a major effort to reverse the arms race. No vital risk is involved. No inspection is necessary. The Soviet Union has said it is willing to stop tests. If the Soviet Union did not respond to America's action, the Soviet Union, not the United States, would be regarded by mankind as the nation that refused to end the radiation danger and help move the world toward peace.

Many Americans know these things. But as a nation, confused by the complexity of the problem, we stand benumbered, morally desensitized by ten years of propaganda and fear. How do you reach men when all the horror is in the fact that they feel no horror? It requires, we believe, the kind of effort and sacrifice we now undertake. There are men in our national leadership who seem to understand no other language but violence. They press for continued tests in spite of the admitted risk that the end of such an arms race will be global war -- that is, national suicide. Other men while recognizing the risk in stopping, see this as a lesser risk, and the only one with hope. They dare not take that risk without the support of American public opinion. There have been signs recently that that opinion is forming. Yet most who favor a risk for peace remain silent.

We hope our act will say to others: Speak Now.

WHAT PUBLICISTS CAN DO

We ask those responsible for education and for the communication of ideas and news to tell our story, to encourage serious consideration of the moral and political choices involved. We would appreciate copies of articles or letters giving reactions to our attempt.

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NON-VIOLENT ACTION AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS
(A FIRST STEP TO DISARMAMENT)
2006 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA 3, PENNSYLVANIA

February 6, 1958

The Commissioners
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a copy of a telegram sent yesterday to President Eisenhower and sent to the press for release Friday, February 7.

We trust you will give it sober consideration, in view of the consequences of the actions you contemplate in the Marshall Islands.

We are ready to confer at any time about this serious problem.

Very sincerely,

/s/ Lawrence Scott

Lawrence Scott
Coordinator

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM

February 5, 1958
12:30 P.M.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

We urgently ask you to meet with a group of sincere and concerned citizens to consider cessation now of nuclear bomb explosions by the United States government.

Several times during the past year we have made this request, without receiving acknowledgement of our plea. January 8, 1958 we stated in a letter to you that four of us intend to sail a small vessel into the Eniwetok nuclear testing area of the Pacific by April 1. The crew--Albert Bigelow, William Huntington, George Willoughby and David Gale--will sail from San Pedro, California the morning of February 10, in an effort to halt what we feel is the folly and delinquency of our government in continuing actions which threaten the well being of all men.

We plead, as fellow citizens and as fellow members of the human family, for a conference with you. The voyage of The Golden Rule will speak to the hopes of millions here, and in Europe, Asia and Africa. It may have international repercussions. We, and the crew of The Golden Rule, would rejoice at the international good-will which would result if you proclaimed now the end of nuclear testing by the United States. Your decision would open the doors of hope to the people of the world.

Signed:

Lyle Tatum, Chairman
Lawrence Scott, Coordinator

for Non-Violent Action Against Nuclear Weapons

2006 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

Telephone: RIttenhouse 6-2540