

January 17, 1950

White House Conference on Fallout Protection

Suggested Joint Press Statement by the Government

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This meeting, held with President Eisenhower and the military, civilian and congressional leaders of his administration was of major and special significance. We wish all interested citizens had participated in it.

The statement of the President, the remarks of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission collectively established that fallout protection for American citizens, in the event of a nuclear attack against us, is not only feasible but is an urgent requirement of national policy.

If our foreign policies are to be effective, our foreign negotiations are to be successful in assuring peace, if our military deterrence is to be effective and our military strength is to be maintained, if the American people are to have the security and will to resist nuclear aggression, if our nation is to survive in the event of an aggression should such an unthinkable and desperate attack upon us occur,

for each of these reasons, a high priority for our citizens is imperative.

We are satisfied from the presentations heard today that, while there will be no possibility of a very high degree of protection from federal action achieved, that it is achievable now and achievable at a cost within the means of our people and nation.

[State here what the Governors believe must, as a minimum, be done by the Federal Government beyond what they are now doing.]

Our immediate task, as Governors, is to cooperate with Federal officials, to agree upon a program of state and local action which, together with programs of Federal support, will make federal assistance for our citizens as readily as soon as possible.

To this task we shall now turn with confidence that, by discharging this responsibility successfully, we will be making a significant contribution to our nation's quest for a more meaningful peace - a peace founded on liberty, justice, and good will among men.