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Col. H. ... 1/27

*This further emphasizes
the need for a follow-up
exploitation plan when
the AEC statement
is issued.*



Handwritten signature/initials

Executive Officer

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FOLDER (7) (September 1954 - February 1955)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. E. B. Staats

DATE: Dec. 27, 1954

FROM : Richard Hirsch *RH*



SUBJECT:

Morse Salisbury of the AEC invited my attention to the attached article by C. L. Sulzberger, from Paris, which appeared in the New York Times on Christmas morning, entitled "A Thermonuclear Christmas and the Strategy of Terror", with particular reference to paragraph three and the need to counteract Soviet propaganda with respect to the ultra-destructive effects of these weapons. The AEC General Advisory Council, headed by Dr. Rabi, has reviewed the proposed AEC statement on effects of thermonuclear weapons, and has suggested certain revisions which are now being processed by the AEC staff. Undoubtedly we will be hearing further about this at an early date.

Attachment:
Clipping.

OCB/SPS:RHirsch:GBA

Col. Hirsch

DECEMBER 25, 1954.

Foreign Affairs

A Thermonuclear Christmas and the Strategy of Terror

By C. L. SULZBERGER

PARIS, Dec. 24—For the first time at Christmas mankind is haunted by the fear that it may utterly destroy itself and by the belief that this is scientifically possible. Subconscious terror underlies any peace or goodwill engendered by the customary spirit of this season.

There is little doubt that the danger of a new world conflict has receded during recent months despite bellicose Soviet statements. Governments on both sides of the Iron Curtain seem more aware of the bleak necessity for coexistence and diplomats are groping for a formula. But, since the Eniwetok thermonuclear experiments last spring, a new peril has been recognized. This is the chance that scientists, probing the unknown, may yet wreck this lovely world by rendering it uninhabitable. The gloomy idea is being encouraged by Communist propaganda seeking to hamper further American arms experimentation. But the thought is not limited to victims of such propaganda. Communist efforts to stress dangers inherent in atomic and hydrogen explosions coincide with widespread fears already latent in Europe.

Moscow's purpose is plain. A picture is being delineated in which the United States is shown as a threat to life itself. If public opinion can be mobilized against the development of American atomic weapons, the defenses of the free world will be menaced. So far, unfortunately, Washington has not taken into account sufficiently the need to counteract this propaganda. Inadequate information has been made public to demonstrate how wrong is the implication that our scientists are about to blow up the earth.

A Receptive Audience

The miscalculations in fall-out at Eniwetok are now being exaggerated and disseminated widely. This terrifying propaganda falls on fertile ground. Even Churchill is much obsessed with death in the form of a long cigar-shaped radioactive cloud capable of obliterating the entire United Kingdom. Mendés-France came within an ace, while he was in the United States, of proposing a moratorium on further thermonuclear explosions. Naturally, if the fright already prevalent were to be given impetus by distinguished statesmen, the ultimate harm to the United States and democratic defenses might be serious. The Soviet bloc has immense superiority in manpower and conventional armaments. If it could overcome our advantage in super-

