

9 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES OF LEWIS L. STRAUSS

At a meeting this morning between the President and Secretary Dulles, the Secretary had discussed the HARDTACK series, the Class "A" weapon letter, and the disarmament negotiations, among other subjects. In respect of these three, the President had said that he did not wish to make decisions without obtaining my point of view and, accordingly, Major John Eisenhower, who is acting for General Goodpaster, telephoned me during the course of the morning and asked me to come to the President's office at 2:30 this afternoon where I was met by Mr. Dulles.

The President approved the additional oralloy for PLUMBBOB.

He approved HARDTACK with the understanding that there would be no public announcement until I had conferred with him again, and this we should be careful to impress upon DoD. He asked me to try and reduce the number of shots and to compress the period of the tests. He said he felt that we should announce (he meant State) that in the event of an agreement to suspend tests, since it would not be possible to obtain a ratification inside of 12 months, that we would conduct tests within that period.

He approved the recommendation in the memorandum from the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and myself on the Class "A" weapon as contained in the NSC paper of July 26th.

He stated that he was not in accord with our reasoning to limit the suspension to 12 months or even to 18 months as the Secretary of State had recommended, but to 24 months. He recognized the validity of my arguments as to the possible effect on the Laboratories but said that he thought I was unduly pessimistic. He said he thought we had enough of "public policy making by scientists."

Prior to the meeting the Secretary of State had told me what the President was likely to say on this subject, viz., 24 months, so that I had an opportunity to marshal my arguments, but the Secretary's remarks had included, "Of course, this is not going to happen. The Russians are not going to agree to the other terms."

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Lewis L. Strauss

LLS/vhw

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 PLUMBBOB history  
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