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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES OF LEWIS L. STRAUSS

This morning, April 7, 1958, I met by appointment arranged by Secretary of Defense McElroy, in his office together with the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles; his Assistant, Mr. Philip Farley; Dr. James Killian, Scientific Adviser to the President; Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald Quarles; General Loper, Chairman of the Military Liaison Committee; and General Nathan Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The subject under discussion was the proposed high-altitude shot or shots in the HARDTACK series scheduled for this month at the Eniwetok Proving Grounds.

This memorandum is to be read in connection with earlier memoranda which I have dictated on the subject of the potential damage to the eyes of any who might look at the shots and whose eyes would receive permanent injury from the brilliance of the fireball.

Secretary Quarles stated the case, following which I read the most recent communication from General Leudecke, Commander of Joint Task Force Seven, which had been sent to me by General Starbird just prior to the meeting. In the discussion which ensued, the Department of Defense expressed its desire to go forward with the shots in order to avoid the delay of five to seven months, incident to their transfer to Johnson Island and in order to save the Government the expense incident to the transfer which Mr. Quarles stated might be as much as \$20 million. Dr. Killian, in general, supported the Department of Defense.

In rebuttal, I made the same statements that I made on a previous occasion with respect to our responsibility as Trustee to the United Nations for the territory, and the moral obligations to the inhabitants of the atoll. I said that the message which I had received that morning indicated that the extra expense was in the neighborhood of \$5 to \$6 million, but that, in any case, the expense was "de minimis" compared with the other considerations. We discussed the possibility of evacuating the natives, of stationing military personnel as monitors on the islands, or of making the Chiefs and sub-Chiefs responsible as had been suggested in General Leudecke's message of even date.

I then returned to the alternative issue of moving the tests to Johnson Island and, after discussion of the pros and cons, it was agreed that this should be done, the Department of Defense concurring.

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