



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

407737

January 3, 1961

My dear Mr. President:

Recently I told you of my intention to resign as a member and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission upon the conclusion of your term of office. I, therefore, request your acceptance of my resignation effective January 20, 1961.

I am enclosing a statement summarizing the progress which has been made in the nation's atomic energy program during the past eight years.

The progress has been substantial.

Today the retaliatory power of our diversified and mighty arsenal of nuclear weapons protects this nation and the Free World against the design of aggressors. Our weapons resource has grown substantially in types and numbers, and in efficiency and flexibility of use.

The vast potential of atomic energy is now becoming available to advance the well being of mankind. The atom is being used to diagnose and treat disease, to produce electrical energy, to improve industrial processes and agricultural methods, and to increase our understanding of the nature of the world around us.

Of particular significance is the progress made in the development of civilian nuclear power. Now for the first time utilities can build large nuclear power plants of proven design in high cost fuel areas primarily on the basis of economic considerations.

These accomplishments have been made possible by the efforts and cooperation of Government, industry, and our great universities and colleges.

I am deeply grateful for the honor you have given me to serve your Administration and our country as Chairman

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

REPOSITORY *Eisenhower Library*
COLLECTION *Central Files, Official Files*
BOX No. 253
FOLDER 61-1959-100(2)

of the Atomic Energy Commission. In areas of the Commission's responsibility, namely, the development and production of nuclear weapons and the application of the atom to peaceful, civilian purposes, the United States leads the world. It is vital that our leadership be continued. I can say with confidence as I leave my position that the dedication and high caliber of my fellow Commissioners who will continue in office, and the very able Commission staff, assures continuing progress and leadership in the field of atomic energy.

With warm personal regards and with deep appreciation,
I am

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) John A. McCone
John A. McCone

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure