

File: Argus

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FOR THE RECORD

March 19, 1959

R. M. Briber



Telephone Call from Walter Sullivan, New York Times

Mr. Walter Sullivan of the New York Times telephoned Dr. Killian on March 18 at about 4 p. m. In Dr. Killian's absence I took the telephone call.

Mr. Sullivan referred to the correspondence he had had with Dr. Killian and Dr. York about the ARGUS matter. He said that matters had proceeded too far to withhold publication of the story any longer. When I asked if this was an irrevocable decision, he said it had certainly proceeded far enough to make such a change very difficult; that it was essentially irreversible.

He said that he had talked with Dr. York earlier -- though not that day -- and had a general feeling about the classified matters involved. He said he would keep the yield, time, place, and height of the experiment in vague terms, and not give anything away which would, from his understanding of Dr. York's concerns, compromise military security.

He said he understood that the matter was currently within the OCB mechanism and mentioned the Livermore discussions and said that "a partial release had been recommended" by Dr. York. The latter of these points and the general import of his call is contained in the March 19 New York Times.

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