

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington

18 March 1948

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

MEMORANDUM TO MR. SULLIVAN

The Secretary has directed that the attached copy of a memorandum from Mr. Louis Strauss, to the Secretary of Defense, dated 17 March 1948, be brought to your attention.

Copies have also been furnished Admiral Denfeld and General Gruentger.

Respectfully,

/s/ C. A. Buchanan

C. A. Buchanan
Captain, U. S. N.

COPY



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DECLASSIFIED BY: CHIEF, ISCM

DATE: 115 25 1990

SIGNATURE: [Signature]

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

17 March 1948

MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1. In a recent letter to the Commission, you evidenced your interest in exploring the hazards of "unconventional" attack. In this connection it might occur to you to inquire whether the Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the remote possibility that the Russians might seize upon the opportunity presented by the forthcoming tests at Nukutak to deliver an attack there. This would be dictated by the obvious aim of neutralizing our atom bomb superiority for a considerable period of time by cancelling out a large number of our specialists, most particularly assembly groups if, for example, the presumed enemy have any information as to the critical importance of those technically equipped individuals. They will be concentrated in a very limited area, and their presence in the area at a given time will be fairly convincingly indicated by the volume of radio traffic.

2. I assume that this has all been foreseen and appropriate dispositions and counter-measures taken despite the improbability of such a course. Nonetheless, I felt it better to call the matter to your attention as long as it had occurred to me.

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LEWIS L. STRAUSS

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