

Denver, Colorado
September 13, 1955

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is further in response to the joint letter of June 30, 1955, from you and Senator Jackson with enclosed findings and recommendations concerning the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile; likewise, to the report of the Military Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, transmitted by similar joint letter of July 29, insofar as the latter relates to the same subject. I assume you will acquaint Senator Jackson with the content of this letter.

I appreciate your reports, the exhaustive study which your Committee gave the subject, and your recommendations. Your views, set out in both documents, have had my thorough consideration.

The earliest development of ICBM capability is of vital importance to the security of the United States. As you have learned, the Soviets may well have begun top priority work on this weapon shortly after World War II. Although the ICBM has been carried as a high priority project by the Department of Defense for some years, it was not until early in 1954 that it was given full impetus.

Excellent work has been done during the past two years by those in charge of the program, and I am convinced that in order to achieve maximum acceleration of this project we should continue to build on the sound foundation that has been laid.

Naturally, we are moving forward on this project without tolerating any of the delays which may attend normal peacetime development or procurement programs. We are determined to utilize all the skills, energies and resources, available and helpful, to the end that nothing surmountable shall stand in the way of the most rapid progress on this program.

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C. Fairbank 10/8/75
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Senator Anderson -- 2

The National Security Council has insured that the Department of Defense and the Air Force will prosecute the project with all speed, and that all other Departments and Agencies in the Executive Branch will assist to the fullest extent. No other development program is now the subject of so urgent and emphatic a directive.

The National Security Council is receiving full status reports periodically on the ICBM program, and Secretary Wilson will, additionally, report to me any major developments or causes of delay affecting the program.

I have decided, after careful consideration of alternative organizational procedures that might be employed, that the foregoing steps will better serve the achievement of the objective than would any method involving the lifting of this program completely out of the context in which it is established. Indeed, such a step could and probably would cause the loss of some of the momentum the program has where it is and postpone the date of operational capability. Meantime, the progress of the project will be under continuous review, with undiminished appreciation of its urgent nature.

Sincerely,



/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Honorable Clinton F. Anderson
Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
307 Federal Building
Albuquerque, New Mexico

cc: Wilson
cc: Quarles
cc: Anderson

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