

March 3, 1953

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A MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

If it is the case that no agency of the Government is now specifically charged with planning a program of domestic public information and foreign policy actions called for by the "Mike" shot, I recommend that a letter of the following kind be sent to the President:

Before the "Mike" shot of last November the Government upon the recommendation of the Psychological Strategy Board adopted a policy of "silence" as to the results of the "Mike" shot.

However, the value of this silence technique was largely lost owing to security failures which forced a deliberately ambiguous official announcement of successful thermonuclear experiments.

In his final State of the Union speech former President Truman was only dissuaded from going into some details of the weapons implications of "Mike" shot by the position that this matter was of such importance as to deserve close study by the incoming Administration.

We believe that in addition to the possible psychological warfare capital to be made out of the successful "Mike" shot much remains to be done in educating the American public as to the advantages and disadvantages to the Nation which arose as a result of this test.

If no agency has been specifically charged with planning a program for the domestic public information and foreign policy aspects of the "Mike" shot, we recommend that a panel be established to develop such a program, with representation from the Departments of State and Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, CIA, and with participation by such other agencies or consultants as may be appropriate.

Thomas E. Murray  
Commissioner

cc to Commissioner Smyth  
" " Zuckert

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