

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

407211

May 4, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: President's Powers in connection with Atomic Energy
Commission

This morning when we were discussing the AEC you mentioned its degree of independence of the Executive. I thought you might be interested to see the extent to which the law specifically involves the President beyond the usual power of appointment of the Commissioners.

- 1) The President designates the Chairman.
- 2) The President may remove any member of the Commission for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.
- 3) The President appoints the nine members of the General Advisory Committee.
- 4) The President appoints the Chairman of the Military Liaison Committee.
- 5) The President makes final decision in any matter of difference between the AEC and the Secretary of Defense. (This applies to case in point).
- 6) The President shall determine at least once each year the quantities of fissionable material to be produced.
- 7) The President shall determine whether common defense and security will be adversely affected by transfer, export or production of fissionable material other than by the Commission.
- 8) President shall approve if any other material than uranium or thorium is determined to be "fissionable material" by the Commission.
- 9) Express consent and direction of the President must be obtained at least once each year covering extent to which production of atomic weapons are made.
- 10) The President from time to time may direct AEC to deliver weapons to Armed Forces as he deems necessary.
- 11) The President may authorize the Armed Forces to manufacture, produce or acquire any equipment or device



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utilizing fissionable material or atomic energy as a weapon.

- 12) The AEC shall prepare a report to the President when commercial or other non-military use of atomic energy has been sufficiently developed to be of practical value and the President shall transmit the report to the Congress with his recommendations.
- 13) The President has control of the dissemination of restricted data by agreement with another nation (after appropriate notice to the Congress via the Joint Committee).
- 14) The President may exempt, in advance, any specific action of the AEC from the provisions of law relating to contracts when he determines it in the interest of common defense and security.

Respectfully
Lewis Strauss



Lewis L. Strauss