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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington, D. C.

2 February 1949

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DR



WAR COUNCIL

TENTATIVE AGENDA for Meeting of the War Council at 10:00 AM

on 8 February 1949

1. Briefing by a representative of the State Department on developments in the field of foreign relations.
2. U. S. policies governing the use of certain new weapons and release of information regarding the capabilities of, defense against, and use of these weapons.

In commenting upon the question of whether the extracted version of the Bikini Report should be released, Dr. Bush suggests that a small top-level group of private citizens be organized to prepare recommendations to the President as to:

- a. The circumstances under which the U. S. should use the atomic bomb and weapons of biological warfare, chemical warfare and radiological warfare;
- b. The information which should be released to the public concerning these decisions and concerning the capabilities of, and defense against, these weapons.

A copy of Dr. Bush's letter is attached as Exhibit 2-a.

Exhibit 2-b is an outline of the questions raised directly or indirectly by Dr. Bush and a statement of previous action with respect to these issues taken in the War Council and the National Security Council.

Exhibit 2-c is a copy of the memorandum from Dr. Compton in which he comments on Dr. Bush's proposal and suggests certain modifications.

The discussion of this item will be preceded by a brief statement by Dr. Compton on the capabilities of chemical, biological and radiological warfare.

**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

Action Required

The War Council should discuss the issues raised by Dr. Bush's proposal (as outlined in Exhibit 2-b) in the light of present circumstances and previous action, and agree upon the action which should be taken with respect to them.

Group-3  
downgraded at 12 year  
intervals, not  
automatically declassified.  
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Authority ORO LTR 4/12/74  
By BJH NLE DATE 7/19/78

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War Council Tentative Agenda  
8 February 1949

3. Responsibility for peacetime planning for the wartime conduct of overt psychological warfare.

By memorandum dated 1 February 1949, the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council submitted to the members of the National Security Council a statement entitled "Responsibility for Peacetime Planning for the Wartime Conduct of Overt Psychological Warfare", accompanied by three annexes. In this statement the National Security Council staff pointed out the desirability for the National Security Council to make early and definitive provision for an organization to plan in peacetime for the wartime conduct of overt psychological warfare activities (including any wartime domestic information program) and to coordinate such planning with that for wartime covert activities.

However, because of the differences which had arisen in the National Security Council staff during consideration of this problem, the staff wished to receive the guidance of the National Security Council as to whether such an organization, in which all appropriate departments and agencies would participate, should be established:

- (a) within the Department of State, or
- (b) directly responsible to the National Security Council, or
- (c) within an already established agency of the National Security Council (notably the Office of Policy Coordination of the Central Intelligence Agency.)

The three annexes to the memorandum of 1 February comprise explanations and briefs of arguments for these three alternatives.

Action Required

Because of the many months which have passed since the National Security Council began consideration of this problem and the divergent views held at the staff and consultant level by the various member departments, it seems desirable that the Military Establishment members of the National Security Council should, in War Council, agree upon a uniform position to be taken in this matter before it is considered in full National Security Council meeting.

4. Air Academy

The proposed terms of reference for the "Service Academy Board" will be considered by the War Council in the event that informal agreement as to their scope has not been reached among the Departments prior to the meeting.

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