

REPOSITORY NARA/Colley Park

COLLECTION RG 326 51-58 Secretary of State NW:972006B 2/15/05  
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BOX No. 183 (NN3-326-93-010)

~~SECRET~~ Copy No. 1 of 1 Series A

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7. Public Announcement on Reduced Fallout Weapon

Informal Meeting

7-19-56

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Mr. Fields said a press release announcing the end of Operation REDWING had been prepared in the usual form for press releases announcing

the end of test operations. He inquired whether the Commissioners wished to consider the press release at this time. Mr. Strauss referred to

previous discussions at Meetings 1214, 1215 and 1217 of a Presidential announcement on Operation REDWING regarding the success of efforts to

develop weapons with reduced radioactive fallout. He said that the Secretary of State had spoken to him earlier in the day and had said that

it was unfortunate that this announcement had not been released as planned, prior to the U.S.S.R. proposal in the United Nations. However, Mr. Dulles

had requested that the announcement now be issued before the beginning of Operation Alert the following day. Mr. Strauss said he had informed

Mr. Sherman Adams and Mr. Murray Snyder of the Secretary of State's request and that he had been informed that the President did not wish to make such

an announcement since he did not wish to respond to technical questions on the subject at press conferences. Mr. Dulles had then requested that

Mr. Strauss issue such a statement immediately.

Mr. Strauss said that Mr. Libby had prepared a proposed statement which concerned the total radioactive fallout from Operation REDWING but

which Mr. Libby believed could be issued more appropriately after the end of the Operation when information on total fallout from the entire Operation

would be available.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>2/12/01</u>	2. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER)
AUTHORITY: <u>DAFC 5450/1 ADD</u>	1. UNCLASSIFIED
NAME: <u>Billie J. ...</u>	2. CLASSIFIED - CHANGES
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>1/18/04</u>	3. CONTINUING
AUTHORITY: <u>...</u>	4. CONTINUING - NO
NAME: <u>...</u>	5. CLASSIFIED - OTHER

SINGLE REVIEW
NAME: <u>W. ...</u>
DATE: <u>09/07/95</u>
REVIEWER: <u>...</u>
DATE: <u>09/07/95</u>
NAME: <u>...</u>
DATE: <u>09/07/95</u>

1. UNCLASSIFIED
2. CLASSIFIED - CHANGES
3. CONTINUING
4. CONTINUING - NO
5. CLASSIFIED - OTHER

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Mr. Vance said that in view of a series of events, such as General Gavin's May 25 statement before the Air Force Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, it was necessary to say something on the subject.

Mr. Libby said that if the proposed statement were made, it was conceivable that it would confirm for the U.S.S.R. the possibility of constructing radiological weapons or that it would lead to pressures for stockpiling only clean weapons. The Commissioners then discussed whether public opinion might force the DOD to such a step.

Mr. Strauss said he believed such a statement would accomplish two purposes: one, to assure the world that the objective of the U. S. weapons program was not the development of weapons of mass destruction; and, two, to reduce pressure for the cessation of weapons tests. Mr. Libby said that if the statement would assist in maintaining the weapons testing program, he would be in favor of it. Mr. Vance said he believed it would assist in doing so. Mr. Libby then indicated his agreement with the principle of a press release on this subject but pointed out that it was an extremely important step and should be coordinated with the DOD and other interested parts of the Government. Also, he said he believed it would be necessary to declassify the principle of varying the fallout from thermonuclear weapons. Mr. Strauss said he did not agree that declassification was necessary.

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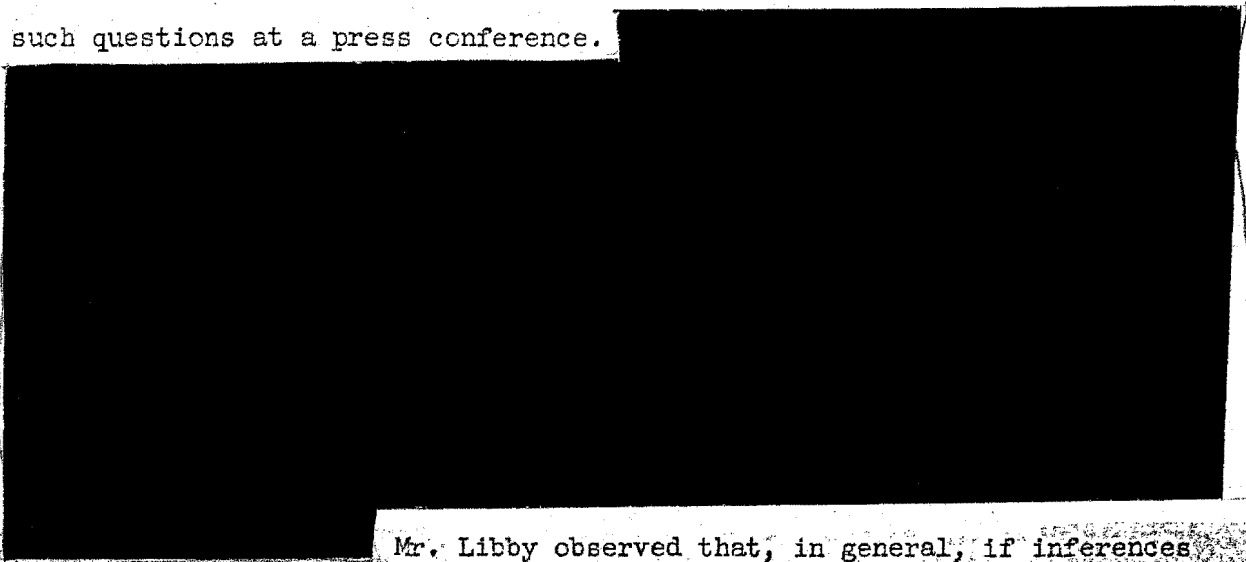
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Commissioners then considered the significance of information in the proposed release. They agreed that further discussion of the matter should be deferred until the end of the meeting.

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Mr. Strauss then read a statement proposed by Mr. Vance. Mr. Libby said he could not agree to such a statement since it disclosed information from which it could be deduced that the U. S. had discovered the principle of reducing or increasing radioactivity of thermonuclear weapons. Mr. Vance observed that there would be little purpose in a public statement if there were no indication that fallout could be reduced. Mr. Libby said he agreed, but he believed since the Secretary of State felt it urgent to make some statement, that it would be better not to disclose important weapons information in it. Mr. Strauss observed that even if no statement were issued the President would later be asked whether the U. S. had made progress in developing weapons with reduced radioactive fallout since the President had stated that this is one of the objectives of Operation REDWING. Mr. Vance pointed out that it would be more desirable to have a considered statement issued by the Commission than to place the President in the position of responding to such questions at a press conference.



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Mr. Libby observed that, in general, if inferences about such principles seemed logical they were generally accepted.

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