

Executive Order
68-6500

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 2, 1960

(Smiley has seen)
- We're going to have
Pete - yourself a good
grade on this stuff!
JL - File w/ brief

Gentlemen:

Attached please find a statement prepared by the General Advisory Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission on the subject of "USSR Capability in Weapons Development During the Test Moratorium". This statement was prepared as a result of this statutory committee's discussion of the subject at their meeting in Washington on July 26-28, 1960.

The reports of the several briefings mentioned in the statement, including Dr. Bethe's memorandum, will be made available to you should you desire to have copies of them.

Sincerely yours,

John A. McCone
John A. McCone

Attachment

CC: Gen. Goodpaster

DOE review

ADDRESSEES

The Honorable Christian A. Herter
Secretary of State

The Honorable Thomas S. Gates, Jr.
Secretary of Defense

✓ The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable Gordon Gray
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Dr. George B. Kistiakowsky
The President's Science Advisor

10 AUG 1960
Jag

**GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
to the
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.**

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**USSR CAPABILITY IN WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT
DURING THE TEST MORATORIUM**

The Committee continued to examine the problem presented at its May meeting on USSR Capability in Weapons Development During the Test Moratorium. Representatives of the Division of Military Application, the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, the Livermore Laboratory, and the Central Intelligence Agency presented excellent briefings on the numerous aspects of the general problem. At the request of the Committee, Dr. H. A. Bethe provided a memorandum entitled "Estimate of USSR and USA Capabilities of Weapons Development". The Committee greatly appreciates Dr. Bethe's efforts in the preparation of this carefully considered statement. As a result of these briefings, Dr. Bethe's memorandum, and accompanying discussions, the Committee submits the following comments.

The General Advisory Committee is convinced that it is technically possible for the USSR to conduct, without serious risk of detection, significant weapons tests under the current test moratorium. We are fearful that under these circumstances the USSR may be able to surpass the United States in nuclear weapons performance. The Commission should recognize that continuation of the current situation increases the risk that the United States advantage will be overcome. We must take vigorous action to break the current deadlock either by securing a test-ban agreement with adequate inspection safeguards or by resuming testing under such conditions as not to contaminate the biosphere.

July 29, 1960

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