

11 August 1954

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Don Whitehead of the Associated Press stated that they have a dispatch from Berlin on Dr. Otto Hohn's press conference which states in part:

"Asked about his recent trip to the United States, John replied: 'From my conversations at the Pentagon and with Allen Dulles, I gathered that out of the hysterical fear in the United States another war is being prepared, and that the German people would suffer most from this war.' ...

"Asked if he had expressed his doubts about the democracy of West Germany during his talks with Dulles, John said tersely, 'No.' Asked 'Why not?' since it was a 'good platform' for that, he replied 'He should have been able to tell that from my attitude.'"

Whitehead would like to sit down with you and suggests that you review the John situation and again emphasize that Dr. John had no American secrets from CIA, and cover somewhat the discussion you had with John. He believes, and I concur, that an immediate statement from you, not only to AP but to the other wire services, would have the right effect, rather than delay until the John statement gets all the play.

Bob Nixon of International News Service also called on about the same point.

RECOMMEND: That you see the three wire services' representatives, Whitehead, Nixon, and Gonzales.

The other alternative would be for you to issue a statement which I will get out to the wire services, TIMES, TRIBUNE, POST, etc.

STANLEY J. GROGAN