MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH:

Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Comments on May 6 LIFE Article by AEC Commissioner Murray

This memorandum is for information only.

- 2. Commissioner Murray makes a strong plea for the production of small nuclear weapons for use in limited warfare. He points out at the same time dangers of a national policy based solely on the reliance of multimegaton bombs and their deterrent value. Although I agree that large yield weapons are of little value in deterring limited aggression because of the fears of mutual annihilation, I do not believe that the lack of low yield weapons has been a major factor in our failure to take strong military measures in limited warfare situations. Our stockpile now contains numbers of small yield weapons which could have been used if a decision had been made to initiate atomic warfare on a limited scale. Until such a decision is made, we will always be faced with having to use conventional armaments which are expensive and require larger forces than we are prepared to maintain.
- 3. Beginning on page 188, Mr. Murray dwells on the internal radiation hazard from strontium-90. While it is agreed that strontium-90 could produce casualties on a world-wide basis in the event of all-out thermonuclear warfare in which many thousands of megatons were detonated, I firmly believe that such casualties would be inconsequential in comparison with the millions of deaths produced by the direct effects of these explosions. The strontium-90 hazard must be kept in its proper perspective and I believe Commissioner Murray has failed to do so in this case.

4. Despite these comments, I believe you will find the article interesting and worth reading.

STAT

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR. Assistant Director Scientific Intelligence

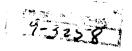
Enclosure: LIFE Article

cc: DDCI

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DOE review completed.

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