

9-3258

AWD/Proc

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: Deputy Director/Intelligence *Red*
SUBJECT: Comments on May 6 LIFE Article by AEC Commissioner Murray

1. 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 thermo-nuclear 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.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR. |
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure: LIFE Article

cc: DDCI
DD/I

DOE review completed.

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cc-Actup

9-3228

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