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15 March 1952

Memorandum for the Record

1. On 15 March 1952 I handed Mr. Borden, Executive Director of the staff of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, the CIA semi-annual report on Soviet atomic energy developments.

2. Mr. Borden told me that at the first Committee meeting in January 1952 the Committee had again urged the Chairman that it be informed of the data on which the CIA reached its conclusions on these matters, and Senator McMahon again rejected this request. The Senator indicated that if necessary a subcommittee consisting of himself, Senator Hickenlooper and one senior House member perhaps be established, but this was opposed by some members, including Senator Clinton Anderson, D., N. Mex. (former Secretary of Agriculture), who with others felt that all members of the Committee were entitled to all information. Mr. Borden pointed out that with the submission of this semi-annual report the question would again arise, but that following the briefing which he and Senator McMahon had had down here they were both sincerely opposed to disclosing our sources of information.

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The situation is complicated by the fact that the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy last summer voted 11 to 6 to receive American stockpile information. This fact has been very closely held and has not leaked on the Hill, and the Committee hopes that it may maintain this security. However, Mr. Borden felt that the DCI should be apprised of this as it increases the Committee's desire to question us. Nevertheless, the Chairman is still of the opinion that CIA should not be questioned regarding its basic data and I believe he would support our refusal in this regard. No action need be taken at the present time.

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Walter L. Pforzheimer  
Legislative Counsel

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