

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

August 6, 1945.

When the four o'clock news release came out, Mr. Harrison called General Surles and told him he was surprised to see so many releases on the big bomb. Mr. Harrison told General Surles that it was his opinion that only the President's and the Secretary's releases were to have been issued today. General Surles stated that there had been several, in addition, that had come over from General Groves' office. He instructed General Surles to issue no more statements until he had cleared with the Secretary or Mr. Harrison.

Mr. Harrison then called General Groves and expressed surprise at the number of releases. General Groves stated that he was surprised also and that he agreed that no more should be put out. Mr. Harrison issued instructions to General Groves that no more releases would be issued until they had been cleared with the Secretary or Mr. Harrison in the Secretary of War's absence. Mr. Harrison also talked to Colonel Consodine and gave him the same orders.

W.H.K.

W.H.K.

18 August 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

I showed the attached letter^{*} and memorandum to Secretary Byrnes and emphasized that the subject matter in Paragraph 1B was a matter which would probably require early consideration and decision by the Administration, especially in view of the Oppenheimer letter addressed to Secretary Stimson and dated August 17 which he read. He was so interested in it that he asked me to leave a copy with him; this I did. Secretary Byrnes was definitely of the opinion that it would be difficult to do anything on the international level at the present time and that in his opinion we should continue the Manhattan Project with full force, at least until Congress has acted on the proposed Bill. He also said that we should continue our efforts and negotiations in behalf of the Combined Development Trust. In his opinion the whole situation justifies and requires a continuation of all our efforts on all fronts to keep ahead of the race. For that reason, he said that he would ask the President to sign a memorandum which Mr. Marbury and General Groves are to prepare requesting Mr. Snyder, Director of Mobilization, formally to approve a continuation of all necessary expenditures by the Manhattan District or by the Combined Development Trust.

Secretary Byrnes felt so strongly about all of this that he requested me to tell Dr. Oppenheimer for the time being his proposal about an international agreement was not practical and that he and the rest of the gang should pursue their work full force. I told Secretary Byrnes that I understood from Dr. Oppenheimer the scientists prefer not to do that (superbomb) unless ordered or directed to do so by the Government on the grounds of national policy. I thought, however, work in the Manhattan District could proceed the way he wants in improving present techniques without raising the question of the "super" at least until after Congress has acted on our proposed Bill.

GEORGE L. HARRISON

* Oppenheimer, 17 August.

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29 August 1945.

Harrison met with the Secretary of State at 9:30 and left with him the following papers:-

1. History of Negotiations Leading to the Quebec Agreement.
2. The Quebec Agreement.
3. The Combined Development Trust Agreement.
4. Minutes of the Combined Policy Committee.
5. Aide Memoire between F.D.R. and W.C.
6. Membership and Terms of Reference of British Advisory Committee on Tube Alloys.

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R.G.A.