

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Mr. McCloy went to the State Department this morning to see Mr. Acheson at 9:00 o'clock. Before leaving, I asked him please to press Mr. Acheson on starting the Atomic Energy bill on its way. I emphasized how important it is and especially in view of the fact that other Congressmen, both Senators and Representatives, are preparing, or talking about preparing, their own individual bills.

I reminded Mr. McCloy of our conversation with Secretary Byrnes last Sunday, September 2, when it was understood between us all (Mr. Acheson being present) that the State Department would carry the ball rather than the Interim Committee or the War Department.

I also told Mr. McCloy of my two conversations with Mr. Acheson during this week when I urged upon him the necessity of prompt action. Mr. Acheson seemed to think that he needed more authority from the Secretary of State but I reminded him that in our conversations with Secretary Byrnes it seemed to be clearly understood that the State Department would proceed with the introduction and handling of the bill in the Congress. On the second day I spoke to Mr. Acheson (September 6, 1945) I called to his attention the fact that the newspapers were already talking about individual Members of Congress introducing their own bills and

that I thought it very important that we proceed as fast as possible. Mr. Acheson said to me that he would look into it and see what he could do about hurrying it.

When Mr. McCloy returned this morning he got exactly the same impression that I did, that Mr. Acheson was very timid about it, that he doesn't know what committee to turn to or to whom he should go for the introduction of the bill. Mr. McCloy reminded him that that was now the State Department's job but that if he wanted any advice or help from any of us over here, either the Interim Committee or the War Department would be glad to give it to him. This was in accordance with our agreement with Secretary Byrnes.

GEORGE L. HARRISON