

11 September 1945.

Herbert Marks, an assistant to Mr. Acheson, came over to see Arneson at 4:15 P. M. He had been unable to find at the State Department certain of the documents which Harrison had taken over to Secretary Byrnes on 29 August. Marks read in Arneson's office the Quebec Agreement, the Combined Development Trust Agreement, the 8 March 1945 Minutes of the Combined Policy Committee, and certain of the papers in the Brazilian file. These documents cleared up any doubts he had about the joint participation of the United Kingdom in our agreement with Brazil and he saw no reason why the exchange of letters between the British and ourselves should not go forward. He stated, however, that Mr. Acheson probably would want the transmittal letter signed by the Secretary of War and redrafted to include a paragraph tying the exchange of letters with the British into the Quebec Agreement, The Combined Development Trust Agreement, and the Minutes of the Combined Policy Committee. He proposed to redraft the letter along these lines and send it over for the Secretary of War's signature.

As to legislation, Marks stated that Acheson wanted to discuss the proposed bill with Harrison at some length and that Marks would probably want to discuss it with Arneson in the next day or so.

R.G.A.

12 September 1945.

Harrison spoke with the Secretary of War this morning concerning relations with Russia on the atomic bomb and the problem of securing action on the proposed legislation. Harrison handed the Secretary Dr. Oppenheimer's letter which strongly argues for a positive approach to Russia. With regard to legislation, Mr. Harrison gave the Secretary a memorandum setting forth the present status and expressing concern over the failure of the State Department to take action. In elaboration of his memorandum, Harrison pointed out that General Groves is having difficulty retaining his best scientists because of continuing uncertainty as to the future course of the government in this field and attractive employment offers from universities. The Secretary made a note of this point in the memorandum from Harrison which he took with him to the White House.

The Secretary discussed both of these matters with the President at 3:00 P.M. and left with him the memorandum on relations with Russia, the Oppenheimer letter, and Harrison's memorandum on the legislative situation.

Captain Davis, who has been working with Marbury on the bill, and Lt. Arneson met with Marks from the State Department at 3:15 P.M. to brief him on the background of the legislation. When he left Marks stated that he felt he had an adequate picture of the thinking that had gone into the various provisions of the bill but

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gave no indication when he thought action would be taken by the State Department. He expressed the opinion that the next step probably would be for the President to call in the Secretary of War and the Acting Secretary of State to talk the matter over.

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