

14 September 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

A copy of the Agreement entered into between the United States Government and the Government of Brazil was transmitted to the British Embassy by letter dated August 27 from Secretary Byrnes to Mr. J. Balfour, Charge d'Affaires. On September 5 Mr. Harrison discussed with Mr. Acheson by telephone the need for an exchange of letters with the British recording their joint participation in this Agreement under the terms of the Combined Development Trust Agreement and the decisions taken at the Combined Policy Committee meetings of March 8 and July 4, 1945. In accordance with this conversation, the attached * letter dated September 5 was sent to Mr. Acheson from Mr. Harrison transmitting the draft letter to be sent to the British Ambassador. Copies of the basic papers pertinent to this matter, namely - the Quebec Agreement, the Combined Development Trust Agreement, Aide-Memoire of Hyde Park conversations, History of negotiations leading to the Quebec Agreement, Minutes of the CPC, and membership of British Advisory Committee on tube alloys - had been handed to Secretary Byrnes by Mr. Harrison on August 29. Presumably Mr. Acheson and Mr. Marks, his assistant, were unable to find these materials in the State Department files. Mr. Marks came over to discuss the question with Mr. Harrison and on September 11 met with Lt. Arneson to go over the basic documents in order to fix in mind the nature of our agreements with the British on joint acquisition of certain materials. The upshot was that the letter of September 5 was redrafted in the State Department to include references to the Quebec Agreement, the Combined Development Trust Agreement, and the decisions of the CPC on British participation in the Agreement with Brazil. This letter as finally signed by the Secretary of War and dispatched to the State Department is attached. *

R. Gordon Arneson
R. GORDON ARNESON
1st Lieutenant AUS.

September 18, 1945.

MEMORANDUM:

I had a long talk with Dr. Conant about the letter from him dated August 24th* when he was in town on September 12th. I told him that I personally was fearful of publication of statements on the political aspects of the bomb at this time. My reason was largely that the Secretary was even at that time trying to "sell" a point of view to the President, a point of view with which I knew that he and the scientists would agree. I pointed out that there were others in the Administration, however, who felt differently, and for him, Conant, to make a public statement just now might have the adverse effect of appearing to take sides.

With this point of view, Dr. Conant was in complete agreement. He was very pleased to know of the Secretary's position and especially pleased that he was taking it up with the President.

Later on in the afternoon when the Secretary saw Dr. Conant and Dr. Bush he told them of the apparent success of his mission to the President. They were delighted.

Incidentally, I told him of Oppenheimer's letter and the enclosed memorandum of his Mexico group urging an immediate political settlement. They asked that the Interim Committee authorize its public release. My position was - and Conant agreed with this too - that it was not a function for the Interim Committee to approve the release. In view of what I had already said to him, he thought that it would be a mistake in any event. I told him that I would talk with Oppenheimer and his group this week when they come to Washington.

GEORGE L. HARRISON

* Letter in "Interim Committee - Publicity" file.

18 September 1945.

Marks called Harrison this morning and reported that Acheson would like to see Oppenheimer when he comes to Washington toward the end of the week. If possible, Acheson said he would like to meet with the entire Scientific Panel in the event they are available in Washington. Harrison said he would look into the matter. Harrison wants to check with General Groves before he gives an affirmative reply to Acheson.

R.G.A.

19 September 1945.

Arneson talked with Marks concerning the exchange of correspondence with the British on the Brazilian Agreement. He reported that the letters should go out from the State Department this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Marks reported that Acheson saw the President yesterday and had a meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning during which the various bills were discussed. Marks was not present at the time and does not know what the tenor of the discussion was. He did report that the Foreign Relations Committee appointed a sub-committee consisting of Senators Connally, Vandenberg, and Lucas to meet with the President to discuss this subject.

R.G.A.