

Journal

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 23, 1949

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I believe the American people, to the fullest extent consistent with national security, are entitled to be informed of all developments in the field of atomic energy. That is my reason for making public the following information.

~~We have evidence that within recent weeks an atomic explosion occurred in the U.S.S.R.~~

Ever since atomic energy was first released by man, the eventual development of this new force by other nations was to be expected. This probability has always been taken into account by us.

Nearly four years ago I pointed out that "Scientific opinion appears to be practically unanimous that the essential theoretical knowledge upon which the discovery is based is already widely known. There is also substantial agreement that foreign research can come abreast of our present theoretical knowledge in time." And, in the Three-Nation Declaration of the President of the United States and the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and of Canada, dated November 15, 1945, it was emphasized that no single nation could in fact have a monopoly of atomic weapons.

This recent development emphasizes once again, if indeed such emphasis were needed, the necessity for that truly effective enforceable international control of atomic energy which this Government and the large majority of the members of the United Nations support.



This was so well kept a secret that I knew nothing of it until the announcement was made at 11:10 am. this date

Notes on
Interviews with the President



28th August

Sources reported that naval aviators had discovered particles of plutonium in air off Vancouver Peninsula

about one week later, Steve Early asked about "dust storm" at cabinet meeting.

About 10 days ago, Johnson, Bradley, Early, Sources came to Blair House about 3:00 pm, told Pres particles had been picked up in Canada & Scotland. Scientists who analyzed sure of atomic explosion.

British & Canadians (in town) were informed.

Military wanted instant release.



British had told us 18th Sept they would
devalue the £.

Pres held it up. 2 Weeks too much
of Pres held it up, because he wanted to be sure.

ASO wanted to tell Joint Committee -

Pres vetoed - it was a "military defence" matter.

After Cripps announced on 18th, £, & the flimsy
settled down,

HST decided OK.

Flimsy - HST sent for Mr. Nathan & his underkeeper.

Pres told Mr. Nathan; told him to tell Committee

Fri - HST told Cabinet - only Acheson & Johnson
had been in on it, although Singer had been in too.

(Finger had been held

Cabinet discussion agreed on immediate release
at 11:00.

NSC did not take it up.

CIA coordinated all info; & reported
 thru Secures.

Evley & Webb thoroughly informed of all steps.



Document 16A TRANSCRIPTION:

PAGE 1: Text of announcement

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PAGE 2: “Notes on Interviews with the President”

PAGE 3:

[Struck-through text]

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[End of strike-through]

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PAGE 4:

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PAGE 5:

[Repeated Text]
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N.S.C did not take it up.

C.I.A coordinated all info & reported them thru Souers.

Early & Webb thoroughly informed o/ all steps

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