



H. W. E.'s first draft,
based on interview with the President,

24 September



On 28 August 1949,^① Sidney Souers (Executive Secretary, National Security Council) reported to the President that U.S. naval aviators had discovered particles of plutonium in the air ^{in the vicinity of} ~~off~~ the Hawaiian Peninsula, (North Pacific Ocean). The information had been supplied to Admiral Souers by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The following Friday, after the Cabinet meeting, Deputy Secretary of Defense Stephen Early asked the President if he had heard about "the Atom Storm." The President recalls that he did not ^{at first} know what Early was talking about, ~~at first~~ ^{only} but when Early repeated the question in a slightly different phrasing, the President

① Check date with Souers; 28th was Sunday.

misunderstood ~~the~~ and assumed Early that he had
been told by Sowers.



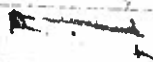
The President heard no more of the
matter until ^{Monday} September 19th ~~about~~ when
(Secretary of Defense) ^{Louis} Johnson, General Omar Bradley
(Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Stephen Early,
and Sidney Sowers called on him at Blair
House at 3:00 P.M. They told the
President that plutonium particles had been
detected in Canada & in Scotland; ^[by whom?] scientists
who had analyzed the particles were convinced
that they were the result of an atomic
explosion.

Pres. imp. about 14 Sept; ascertain date from Blair House records



U.S. military officials wanted immediate
release of ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ the fact that we
believed the Soviets had produced an
atomic explosion

[Who?]



[When?]



British & Canadian officials, ~~who~~ in
Washington to discuss the British financial
crisis, were informed by Secretary of State Acheson
[?] in early September [?] of our findings.

Ernest Bevin & Sir Stafford Cripps, leading the British delegation to the U.S. - British - Canadian financial discussions in early September, had told our Government that the pound Sterling would be devalued on Sunday, September 18.

[was the date certain?]

The President decided against releasing information on the Soviet atomic explosion prior to that date, fearing that the impact of the two announcements would be too great a shock to the western nations, and — since there was no connection between Sterling devaluation and the Soviet atomic explosion — the former should be announced first. If the atomic news were made public



first, ~~and then~~ followed by ~~the~~ ~~announcement~~
announcement of a sharp cut in the value of
the pound, the British public especially might
well become ~~provoked~~.

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