Friday, June 21, 1963  -  D. C. Office

From 9:30 to 11:20 a.m. I met with Weisner, Foster, Brown, Haworth, Jerry Johnson, Keeny and others (in Wiesner's office) to discuss the proposed shots for the 1964 atmospheric test series.

From 11:35 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. I attended a meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House. Present were: the President, Foster, Rusk, Ball, Harriman, McConne, Wiesner, Thompson, Fisher, myself, Haworth, Bundy, Kaysen, Nitze, Gilpatric and McNamara. Rusk opened the meeting, calling on Foster who summarized the contents of his memorandum ACDA-921 (copy attached). The President referred to an article in the "Economist" and inquired whether the British had changed their mind on the need for onsite inspections. Foster said that the best British scientists agree on the necessity for these. The President asked whether we have an agreed-upon paper with the U.K. on this matter, and McNamara replied that we don't have an agreed-upon paper in the U.S. on our position, including what can be accomplished by clandestine testing. Bundy said that this problem will be somewhat clarified as the result of Frank Long's forthcoming meeting with UK scientists. McNamara said that position papers should be available soon.

The President asked whether Harriman and Hailsham, the British Minister, would be getting together, and Harriman said they would meet a day or two before they leave for Moscow.
The President said we should have a summary of what the Russians could accomplish in about five to seven years in clandestine underground testing. Bundy said that Penney has written a paper on the subject and concluded that this could not lead to a change in the strategic balance. McNamara said that their position papers will be ready by the middle of next week. Nitze said that the degree of importance of clandestine testing depends upon what you mean by the term "strategic balance." Harriman made the observation that this whole question is a major political problem for Khrushchev and one of his (Harriman's) objectives should be to try to identify that problem.

Foster raised the question of whether Harriman shouldn't introduce the idea of a limit on the number and yield of underground tests. Bundy pointed out that Hosmer favors this and that this has political appeal in the U. S.

The President asked how we might handle the discussion with respect to the Chinese. Foster indicated that if we could get together with the USSR, the Chinese could be handled even if it required an accidental drop on their facilities. Bundy agreed that the Russians may insist to the Chinese that they desist from their nuclear weapons development.

The President asked whether Long would be available for consultations with him (the President) when he arrives in England, and he was assured that Long would be.
Foster then went on to talk about non-proliferation of weapons. The President raised the possibility of the US giving up the MLF concept. Bundy felt that this should be kept alive as a bargaining point, and Rusk pointed out that this involves the Allies so deeply that it shouldn't be considered as a possible position at this time. He, therefore, made some changes in the draft ACDA-921 to reflect this.

The President inquired as to what the objection to the non-aggression pact sought by the Russians might be, and Rusk replied that we would need the assurance that the Berlin situation remain status quo before we could consider such an approach. I called attention to the very significant and important vote of the Soviets for safeguards for nuclear power reactors at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA in Vienna yesterday. I said that this reverses the position that they previously had against safeguards, which was a very strong one.

I had lunch with Jerry Luntz (Editor and Publisher, Nucleonics), Joseph H. Allen (Vice President, McGraw-Hill) and Ed Brunenkant at the Hay Adams Hotel to discuss problems caused by AEC competition in review type publications.

I met with Admiral Rickover who said that he had received a letter from Secretary Korth late last week saying that he could stay on in charge of Naval Reactors as a civilian, provided he had an assigned deputy. Rickover told the Secretary
that the condition of an assigned deputy was not satisfactory. He saw Secretary Korth again this morning and the Secretary said he could stay on in his present position, continuing as an officer but with indefinite tenure. Rickover indicated to the Secretary that this is not satisfactory. Rickover told me that the JCAE may hold executive session hearings on this matter next week. He indicated that he needs my help for the next step, whatever that may be.

Joe Hennessey and Roland Anderson showed me evidence that John Dunning has faked a carbon copy of a letter dated Sept. 18, 1940, to establish claims for compensation for discoveries in connection with barrier for gaseous diffusion separation of U-235; perhaps this is a misunderstanding.

At 4:40 p.m. I presided over Information Meeting 285 (notes attached).