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Atomic Energy - Manhattan

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TOP SECRET

December 10, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR S/AE - Mr. Farley

It seems to me that Dr. Kistiakowsky should be asked to straighten out the President and other members of the NSC on the question of the effect which a fissionable material cut-off would have on our existing stockpiles since I do not believe that Mr. Coolidge's recent statement on this point to the NSC is accurate and since it clearly surprised the President.

It might be useful to write or speak to Dr. Kistiakowsky along the lines of the attached.

Gerard C. Smith

Attachment:

Memorandum for
Dr. Kistiakowsky.

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MEMORANDUM FOR Dr. Kistiakowsky

Subject: Effect of Nuclear Cut-off

1. Gerry Smith has told me of Mr. Coolidge's statement at the recent NSC meeting that a fissionable material cut-off would cause our existing stockpiles to lose their effectiveness in a relatively short time. I gather the President was clearly surprised and impressed by this statement.

2. My understanding had been that a fissionable material cut-off need not have this effect, since short half life elements could be exempted from such a cut-off by its terms.

3. If this is correct, I wonder if it would not be useful to set the President and all members of the NSC right as to the facts. It seems to me important that they not be left under a misapprehension on such a major disarmament problem.

Philip J. Farley

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