

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 9, 1962

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 205

TO: The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Special Assistant for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Nuclear Testing

1. Our 1962 atmospheric test series has come to an end. The Soviets have announced that their test series will end shortly. It is a matter of first importance to review carefully the effect of these two test series on the relative balance between U. S. and Soviet capabilities.

2. In order that we arrive at the best possible evaluation, I think all information and assessments should be brought together and examined in a single channel. Accordingly, each addressee should select a single technically qualified officer of his agency to sit on an inter-departmental committee to make the evaluation. I should like the representative of the CIA to chair the committee, and my Scientific Advisor, Dr. Wiesner, to sit as a member.

3. Each member agency will continue to use such internal processes of evaluation and advisory panels as it thinks appropriate. However, all such reports and evaluations should be funneled through the central committee, which alone should be responsible for a final evaluation.

4. The Committee should address itself not only to the specific question of what has been learned by testing in terms of the design of nuclear weapons, their effects, and defense against them, but also to the broader question of the military significance

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E.O. 12353, Sec. 2.4

NLK-95-145

E.O. 12958, Sec. 2.4
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of what has been learned and its probable effects on the present and prospective military balance between the U. S. and the Soviet Union.

5. All the material which this Committee handles should be treated as sensitive, and every member agency should take fullest precautions against unauthorized disclosure of either information or evaluation. If any such disclosure occurs, I would like the head of the responsible agency to report to me personally on it.

6. The target date for the report is 20 December 1962. Examination of information not now available may require addenda at a later date.



Copy furnished:

The Secretary of State

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