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D R A F T  
7 February 1952Security Information

TAB "A"

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary  
National Security Council

SUBJECT: PSB Action on Publicity With Respect to Certain American Weapons

1. A series of conflicting statements made last Fall by high officials of the Executive Branch of the government produced considerable public confusion as to the facts concerning our atomic and related developments. They raised doubts as to the degree of unity and confidence within the government on the purposes of these weapons. Particularly, they gave rise to considerable fears abroad, as to U.S. intentions with respect to the use of these weapons.

2. For these reasons, the Psychological Strategy Board at its 4th meeting, October 25, 1951, directed the preparation of a staff study on the problem. At its seventh meeting, December 20, 1951, acting on the recommendations contained in the staff study, PSB created a committee chaired by the Director, Office of Public Information, Department of Defense, to prepare a "national information policy" on the subject.

3. It was agreed at the Senior NSC Staff Meeting of November 19, 1951 to refer to PSB for appropriate action, in connection with this project, a draft report by the NSC on "Release of Information Regarding New Weapons," dated July 5, 1950, action on which had not been completed.

4. The attached memorandum, Subject, "Memorandum on Public Statements With Respect to Certain American Weapons" has been prepared in response to the above board action.

a. At its meeting, 1952 the Psychological Strategy Board approved the memorandum, recommended that it be transmitted to appropriate departments and agencies as an enclosure to a Presidential directive (draft attached), and directed that its views be communicated to

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the Executive Secretary, NSC. The Atomic Energy Commission and the Federal Civil Defense Administrator joined in this approval and these recommendations.

b. The committee also examined the question of the adequacy of speech clearance machinery as it relates to statements covering these weapons. It concluded that the machinery created within departments and agencies in response to the Presidential directive of 5 December 1950, "Public Discussion of Foreign and Military Policy," should be used for the enforcement of the attached memorandum rather than that a new clearance procedure should be established.

FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD:

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Director

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