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# Hoax or Analysis?

## Peace Disaster Thesis Startles

The New York Times News Service  
NEW YORK — The book is described as "a harmless subterfuge," "a hair-raising analysis," "the sinister work of a sick mind" and "a serious fraud."

It is "Report From Iron Mountain: On the Possibility and Desirability of Peace," published by the Dial Press and described as a suppressed government report arguing that the world would face a catastrophe if peace broke out.

THE BOOK states that war and war preparations are indispensable to world stability. Its unidentified authors conclude that "lasting peace, while not theoretically impossible, is probably unattainable; even if it could be achieved it would almost certainly not be in the best interests of a stable society to achieve it."

Richard Baron, president of Dial, says the report is authentic. Harold Hayes, managing editor of Esquire magazine, which is publishing a 28,000-word condensation of the book in its December issue, says he accepts Dial's assurances on authenticity.

But publishers, reviewers and government officials who have seen advance copies generally consider the book a hoax.

"TO OUR knowledge no such special study group ever existed," said a spokesman for the State, Department's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. "But it's cleverly done, and whoever did it obviously has an appreciable grasp of the disciplines involved."

The book carries an introduction by Leonard C. Lewin, a New York City freelance writer, who states that "John Doe," a professor of social science from a large Midwestern university, secretly passed

the manuscript on to him last winter.

"Doe" is described as one of the 15 members of a special government study group held at "Iron Mountain, N.Y." from 1963 to 1966 to produce the report.

MANY OF Lewin's articles have been political satires. Questioned about the book, Lewin said, "I think you might more profitably direct that question to Washington and people in the administration."

"Iron Mountain," described in the book as being near the town of Hudson, N.Y., is apparently a reference to the Hudson Institute, the "think-tank" where war games and other projects for the future are developed under the direction of Herman Kahn.

"WE HAD nothing to do with it," said Kahn. "It sounds nutty to me—either a practical joke or something sinister."

The report suggests that if the social cohesion brought by war is allowed to disappear without massive advance planning, the world may have to introduce "a sophisticated form of slavery," invent enemies from outer space or deliberately poison the atmosphere "in a politically acceptable manner."

Arthur I. Waskow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington said that if the report is authentic it would probably have come from the Bureau of the Budget of the Central Intelligence Agency. He added that one of his privately circulated reports was mentioned in the book.

"AS FAR AS I know, only about 60 people in Washington ever saw my report. If it's a hoax, it must involve somebody high up," he said.

The Harvard economist, Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith, is widely suspected of being the book's author. Under the pseudonym Mark Epernay, he

has written several political satires.

"Books," a New York publishing monthly, said in its October issue that the author would identify himself within a month. It also said that despite "necessary elements of fabrication," the book is essentially a true account of what a think-tank study has concluded.

ACCORDING TO the book, the creation of imaginary enemies in a time of peace is important because government must spend large amounts of money outside the normal workings of supply and demand and that aggressive

energies must be focused on outsiders.

The book suggests that flying saucer "incidents" may have been government attempts to test public responses to outside enemies.

According to the introduction, the study group met between 1963 and 1966. These dates fit the time span of a study by the Washington Center of Foreign Policy Research for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. This study, published July 10, 1966, said President Johnson's disarmament plan could destabilize the world instead of promoting peace.

Both the center and the agency denied this report was the basis for "Iron Mountain."