

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1971

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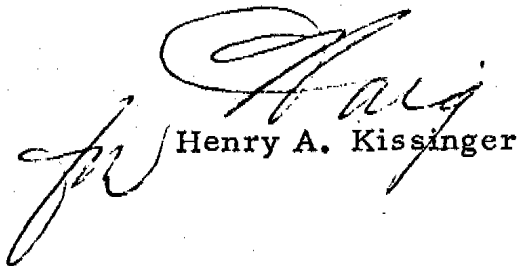
MEMORANDUM FOR

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Director, Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency
The Director, Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Hearings on Seismic Detection Technology

The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will undertake public hearings on October 27, 1971, concerning advances in seismological developments for differentiating between natural and nuclear seismic events.

The President has directed that all agencies be reminded of his policy that testimony by government representatives relating to policy issues be coordinated with the White House.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director, Office of
Science and Technology

NSS/NSC Review Completed

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

October 18, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: K. Wayne Smith

*Mem.
fr KWS*SUBJECT: Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Hearings on
Seismic Detection Technology

In accordance with your direction (Tab B), attached is a self-explanatory memorandum reminding the addressees of the President's direction that testimony by government representatives relating to policy issues will be cleared by the White House (Tab A).

While the Department of the Interior is not included among the addressees, I will monitor to insure that if this department accepts an invitation to testify, appropriate measures will be taken to implement the President's policy with regard to its testimony.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

See Haig
NOTE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION
October 15, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: K. Wayne Smith *KWS*

SUBJECT: Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Hearings
on Seismic Technology

The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will hold public hearings on seismic technology beginning on October 27 (Tab A). The hearings will focus on advances in seismological developments for differentiating between natural (earthquakes) and manmade (nuclear) underground seismic events. Invitations to testify have been widely distributed, including invitations to government agencies such as ARPA, ACDA, AEC, [redacted] State, Commerce and Interior (Tab B). University and private seismologists will do most of the testifying. However, at least one anti-nuclear testing group will also speak. The committee staff claims it hopes to avoid an executive session.

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These hearings come at an indelicate time for us.

-- The NSSM 128 study to review our nuclear test ban policy is in the works.

-- The decision on Cannikin is imminent, and, if conducted, public interest in nuclear tests may be intensified.

-- At the Geneva Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and within the UN General Assembly there is growing pressure from the non-nuclear nations for further limitations on nuclear testing.

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The JCAE hearings may well add to this pressure, especially if the scientific community makes a strong pitch for the feasibility of verifying a nuclear test ban by national -- or international -- seismic means alone. We have publicly stated that we favor a comprehensive test ban if on-site inspection were permitted. The "black box" alternatives -- if deemed feasible before the JCAE -- would undercut our current position.

Therefore, it is very important that spokesmen for government agencies be most discreet in their testimony before the JCAE in order not to compromise the Administration's flexibility with regard to test ban policy. There are several alternative approaches available to us:

-- Request the JCAE to postpone the hearings. We would have to say why and any rationale we might devise is inherently weak. Furthermore, with invitations out, it would be difficult to call off the hearings.

-- Present only one spokesman for the government. Steve Lukasik, Director of ARPA, would be the logical choice, since ARPA has sponsored seismic research with application to nuclear test detection. However, his credibility with the JCAE has been cast in doubt. So far, ARPA, AEC [] have indicated to JCAE they will accept invitations to testify. Cancelling these informal acceptances and presenting only one government spokesman might smack too much of "management." Commerce and ACDA have declined to testify, and State is likely to decline.

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-- Clear all government agency testimony through the White House. This would insure against injudicious disclosures and possible inconsistencies or conflicts of statements. This seems to be the most feasible option open to us. (If Interior/Geological Survey accepts an invitation to testify, we may have to send a letter requesting their statement be cleared at the White House.)

I have already put out the word to the agencies represented on the NSSM 128 Working Group (State, JCS, CIA, OSD, OST, ACDA, and AEC) that White House clearance should be obtained for any testimony by their agencies. However, I do not know how far this word has gotten nor whether it will be heeded, despite the President's policy that testimony

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by government representatives dealing with policy issues be cleared by the White House.

If you agree that the appropriate action is to simply ride herd on statements, I will see that it is done.

Approve

Disapprove

(See me)

Concur

*Wayne Meyer
a director
from HAK
Pres. has invited*

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*El can sign for
him.*