

Wednesday, April 25, 1945.

I spent the first part of the morning going over with Harrison and Bundy the brief memorandum on S-1 which I had drafted with Bundy yesterday. I also showed it to Marshall and to Groves who came in. Finally when we got it approved by all, I set it aside and called it a job. A copy of this memorandum will be annexed to this day's diary when the security control is taken off the subject.

I also had a talk with McCloy over the phone as to the War Crimes plan for San Francisco. The British, as I think I have reported in this diary, have come out strongly against having a trial and wish to kill the people offhand - a most singular position. And I spent part of my day reading a defense of that process by Sir John Simon, the Lord Chancellor, who while against it at first has now gone over to it when the Cabinet in London have voted for it. I talked with the President about this when I was with him in the morning on another matter and he strongly supported our position. I told McCloy to get ready for a big fight on it in San Francisco, and I went over with him the list of people that we could have as barristers or leaders in the trial.

At twelve o'clock noon I went over for my conference with the President at the White House over S-1. General Groves was to meet me there, but he had to take a secret road around because if the newspaper men, who are now gathered in great numbers every morning in the President's anteroom, should see us both together there they would be sure to guess what I was going to see the President about. So Colonel McCarthy, the Secretary of the General Staff, arranged to have General Groves conducted around through underground passages to a room near the President and there wait till I had got far on in my talk with the President. The talk worked very well indeed. First of all I showed the President the paper that I had drawn yesterday and this morning. It is on the political aspects of the S-1 performance and the problems which are involved with the public.

Wednesday, April 25, 1945.Page 2

He read it carefully and was very much interested in it. I then produced General Groves and his account of the manufacturing operation, and Groves and I and this report explained the matter to the President. The President took one copy and we took the other and we went over it and answered his questions and told him all about the process and about the problems that are coming up and in fact I think very much interested him. He was very nice about it.

He remembered the time that I refused to let him go into this project when he was chairman of the Truman Committee and was investigating it, and he said that he understood now perfectly why it was inadvisable for me to have taken any other course than I had taken.

After three-quarters of an hour with the President, I left the White House and drove up to Woodley for lunch alone, hoping to get a restful nap afterwards. But it was barely two o'clock when I was called out of my nap by Colonel Kyle to say that this active President of ours had come to the Pentagon Building and was wandering at large in the building. It turned out that he was there on a telephone call to London. Nevertheless I got up and hurried down to the Pentagon in case that he might want me, and I did see him for a minute and chatted with him as he was going.

Then I had a talk with Bundy and Harrison over my interview this morning and they both seemed to think a great deal had been accomplished. I think so too.

I had to prepare then for a speech tomorrow on universal military training, for there is to be a meeting here in the Pentagon tomorrow and I have got to preside at it. So I didn't get away from the Pentagon finally till half past five. I went home and lay down on the porch and rested a while, and now I am expecting Arthur Page to take dinner with me and spend the evening.