

DECLASSIFIED

DOE 8803942A-HS

By MHC DATE 2/6/89

DECLASSIFIED

812018

By MHC DATE 2/6/89

~~SECRET~~VANNEVAR BUSH
Director*H. J. Carrott*
16-21-64
OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
1530 P STREET NW.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 27, 1941.

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.UNITED STATES ARMY'S SPECIAL COMMISSION
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION 22

Dear Mr. President:

I hand you herewith the report of the National
Academy of Sciences Committee on Uranium Bombs.

This American report proves to be somewhat more conservative than the British report, the findings of which I summarized for you and Mr. Wallace a few weeks ago. This may be due to the fact that the Committee included some hard-headed engineers in addition to very distinguished physicists. The present report estimates that the bombs will be somewhat less effective than the British computations showed, although still exceedingly powerful. It predicts a longer interval before production could be started. It also estimates total costs much higher than the British figures, although their costs are at present necessarily based on very rough estimates. Nevertheless the matter, as presented, decidedly calls for serious attention.

I am now forming a carefully chosen engineering group to study plans for possible production. I am also taking steps to further accelerate those parts of the research in physics which are aimed at furnishing data for design of a possible plant.

In accordance with your instructions, I have stated the status of the subject to Secretary Stimson and General Marshall, and I will keep them and also Mr. Wallace posted, and give them copies of this report. Considerations of policy, as distinguished from technical matters, are being limited to this small group and Dr. Conant. I have, however, discussed the financial problem which may be faced later with Mr. Smith.

DECLASSIFIED
NND 760118
By FW NARS Date 3/5/81

DECLASSIFIED

DOE 8803942A-HS

MHC 12/85 Date 2/6/89

DECLASSIFIED

812018

MHC 12/85 Date 2/6/89

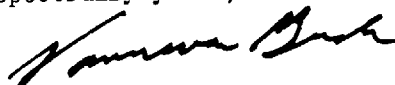
~~SECRET~~

-2-

I will be glad, of course, at any time to explain any part of this report to you, where the mathematical language may need interpretation, or to supplement this treatment of the subject with further data.

I plan, with due caution, to place a copy of this report in the hands of the British, since we have had full interchange on the scientific aspects of the subject, unless of course you should instruct me otherwise. On the long-range aspects of this subject, which are so full of dangers and possibilities, I will wait to be instructed by you, before taking any step which would commit us to any specific program.

Respectfully yours,



Vannevar Bush, Director.



National Security Archive,
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu