

November 21, 1961

NSC Mfg 54

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Here is a list of the people who attended the meeting of the National Security Council at which the Net Evaluation Subcommittee reported. While this was a large meeting, it was reduced somewhat below the attendance in earlier years, and each person present had either a statutory or other responsibility directly related to the briefing.

This account itself is riddled with errors.

1. The decision to launch a Government shelter program was made in May, not in July.
2. The President did not "summon top officials" -- they came in regular fashion to an NSC meeting.
3. The briefing was not handled by four scientists but by a group of military officers under the direction of Lt. General Hickey.
4. Checking the security clearance of those present was not an unusual precaution but the normal practice of the National Security Council meetings.
5. I myself watched the President during the meeting and did not feel that he "sat as though transfixed," or showed "great stress." I do not recall that he made any of the remarks attributed to him. How anyone could know what his internal thoughts about his family were during such a meeting, I do not know.
6. Douglas Dillon was not present, and I recall no conversation about "molten gold."
7. Finally, this meeting was not the occasion for the "go-ahead for a mass-shelter program."

Incidentally, earlier discussions of the President's opinion in this article are in direct conflict with what he himself has said, and can only have come from someone trying to use the President's weight to advance his own arguments.

McG. B.

489th Meeting of the National Security Council
to be held in the Cabinet Room of The White House
on Thursday, July 20, 1961, at 10:00 a.m.

The President of the United States, Presiding
The Vice President of the United States

AEC

Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Robert F. Kennedy

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

David E. Bell, Director

CIA

Allen W. Dulles, Director

DEFENSE

Robert S. McNamara, Secretary
Roswell L. Gilpatric, Deputy Secretary
Paul H. Nitze, Assistant Secretary (ISA)
Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., Secretary of the Army
John B. Connally, Jr., Secretary of the Navy
Eugene M. Zuckert, Secretary of the Air Force

ICIS

FBI John F. Doherty, Chairman

IIC

J. Edgar Hoover, Chairman

JCS

Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Chairman
Gen. Clyde D. Eddleman, Acting Chief of Staff, U. S. Army
Adm. James S. Russell, Acting Chief of Naval Operations
Gen. C. E. LeMay, Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force
Gen. David M. Shoup, Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps

NES

Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Hickey, Director
 Maj. Gen. Paul S. Emrick, Deputy Director
 Capt. Samuel R. Brown, Jr.
 Col. Kirby D. Goldblum
 Col. Tracy B. Harrington
 Dr. Don R. Harris
 Col. William J. Hovde
 Capt. David H. McClintock
 Col. Erwin F. Wann, Jr.
 Col. Sherman W. Wilkins
 CWO William A. Barbee
 M/Sgt. Kenneth K. Cecil

OCDM

Frank B. Ellis, Director

STATE

Dean Rusk, Secretary
 Chester Bowles, Under Secretary
 U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary

TREASURY

C. Douglas Dillon, Secretary

USIA

Edward R. Murrow, Director

WHITE HOUSE

Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Military Representative to the President
 McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant to the President
 for National Security Affairs
 Jerome B. Wiesner, Special Assistant to the President
 for Science and Technology
 Walt W. Rostow, Deputy Special Assistant to the President
 for National Security Affairs
 Brig. Gen. Chester V. Clifton, Military Aide to the President
 Theodore C. Sorensen, Special Counsel to the President

 Bromley Smith, NSC Staff