

TOP SECRET
UNCLASSIFIED

Copy #5

August 10, 1953

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Craig

SUBJECT: Project CANDOR and the Soviet "H" Bomb

DECLASSIFIED
1960-63
Authority STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
By DJH NLE Date 7/18/95

Announcement by Malenkov that the Soviet Union has learned the secret of the hydrogen bomb has caused me once again to re-evaluate in my own mind the technical capacities and the industrial potentialities of the USSR. Other people in this country must be doing exactly the same thing and wondering to themselves what is the basic technical capacity of the USSR, not only to manufacture A bombs and H bombs but generally to take its wished for place among those countries of the world who today have achieved a commanding position in the industrial and machine age.

Accordingly, I wonder if it would be possible to work into the "CANDOR" project a few statements with regard to the basic scientific and technical potentialities of the USSR with particular emphasis on the comparative aspects with comparable information concerning the United States.

Without disclosing information or statistics affecting our national security interests, it would seem to me to be useful to objectively restate the fundamental facts of Western and United States technical and industrial superiority over the USSR and the Communist bloc countries. While it is true that the Soviet Union in recent years has been devoting a greater share of its resources both material and manpower to the production of industries and end items primarily useful for war, the analysis that I would suggest is a little more fundamental than over-all national effort. I am thinking primarily in terms of the basic lead, which scientists in a free society must have, and clearly have demonstrated that they have, over scientists in a captive, closely ordered political state. This can be factually demonstrated by restating the facts concerning the number of existing scientific organizations and institutions in the West (or the United States), the number of qualified scientists and technicians currently at work, and the history of scientific achievement in this country over a period of many years; comparable statistics and analyses for the USSR could then be juxtaposed.

This comparative analysis should make it clearly manifest that a basic belief in and practice of the fundamental concepts of our free and democratic society must necessarily over a period of years continue to provide us with that lead which will give the margin of safety in the continuing contest between our world and the communist world.



PSB 0914 U.S. (10 Aug 53)

UNCLASSIFIED

CN 1120

~~TOP SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

Dr. Detlev Bronk, President of Johns Hopkins University, might be eager to produce an analysis on short notice if he knew that the President would include it in a broadcast.

Charles R. Norberg
Acting Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Coordination

CRN
ISB/CRN:Norberg:vc



~~TOP SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED