

GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 25, 1953

407208

Dear Mr. President:

The General Advisory Committee was created by the Atomic Energy Act to advise the Atomic Energy Commission on scientific and technical matters. The members are appointed by the President of the United States and for this reason we have from time to time in the past written the President on matters concerning the atomic energy program. Our last communication was dated June 14, 1952.

We write you again at this time because of our deep concern for the future of our national atomic energy program, particularly as it affects the national security.

The program of the Atomic Energy Commission has been strikingly successful in many areas, such as the production and discovery of raw materials, the production of fissionable materials and the establishment and maintenance of strong research and development laboratories. The most notable results, however, have been in the invention, development and production of atomic weapons. In this field our capability has been multiplied many times through the development of more efficient weapons, and weapons which have great flexibility of application from the standpoint of delivery.

The developments have opened new vistas for application in strategic, tactical and naval warfare. As a natural result, we can foresee greater and greater demands for nuclear weapons and the fissionable materials on which they are based.

The newest successes in the development of thermonuclear weapons serve to point up the very healthy and dynamic state of the fundamental art in the field of atomic energy.



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We are deeply concerned at this time lest as a result of financial stringency the momentum of this program be slowed down or dissipated. We believe that even now the applications of atomic energy are only partially foreseeable and that a very strong program in this field is one of our very vital national assets.

It would be a tragic loss to the nation when our atomic energy program is really rolling if any action were taken to impede this tremendous development which is so important for the advancement and preservation of our institutions.

We would be very happy at any time to meet with you or your representatives to discuss these matters in more detail.

Respectfully yours,



I. I. Rabi
Chairman



The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.