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MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Saturday, February 25, 1967

G.F. L
ND 20-1
Revision taken
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Scientists' Petition on Chemical and Biological Weapons

Last week Don Hornig made two recommendations to you for handling the scientists' petition on chemical and biological weapons:

1. Hornig asked you to authorize him to acknowledge the petition on your behalf, stating that the matter is under study.

I recommend you ask him to do this in an attempt to avoid attracting renewed public attention to the petition.

Tell Hornig he can acknowledge

Draft acknowledgment for me to sign

2. Hornig and the scientists want you to announce publicly that we will use chemical and biological weapons only in retaliation, after others use them against us.

Nick Katzenbach thinks a "no first use" policy which does not cover riot gases and weed killers should be issued. (See attached memo Tab A)

Secretary McNamara agrees with the policy but does not want to issue any statement now because the JCS opposes.

The Chiefs want to keep open the possibility of first use until we have better information about the military effectiveness of incapacitating agents.

I recommend that you ask Walt Rostow to get to you a draft statement on the use of chemical and biological weapons along with the recommendations of the agencies concerned -- State, Defense, JCS, ACDA and USIA -- as to whether it should be made public.

Bromley Smith
Bromley Smith

Rostow to get coordinated statement

Tell Hornig to go ahead

Ask Rostow to talk to me

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