

April 25, 1945.

The desirability of the Secretary of War being accompanied by General Marshall and General Groves at his conference with the President at which he was to disclose to the President all of the facts with respect to the Manhattan Engineer District was discussed between the Secretary of War and General Marshall. General Marshall felt it would be unwise for him to attend on account of the close news watch being kept on the White House. Also as a result of this discussion General Groves didn't go to the White House with the Secretary but entered through the back door and was brought into the President's office from the back door about 5 or 10 minutes after the conference started.

During this period the Secretary had presented his short opening statement and had initiated the discussion emphasizing the importance from the standpoint of the San Francisco conference of the problem.

Prior to going over to the White House I read the statement of the Secretary and expressed my concurrence in it with the exception that I pointed out the dangers of over-emphasizing the power of a single bomb.

After General Groves entered his memorandum to the Secretary of War dated April 23rd was read by the President and the President asked questions concerning various items. A great many of these questions were answered by the Secretary with little or no amplification by General Groves. The answers to the remainder of the questions were either considerably amplified by General Groves or were answered in their entirety by him.

The President did not keep the report as he felt it was not advisable. A great deal of emphasis was placed on foreign relations and particularly on the Russian situation. The President did not show any concern over the amount of funds being spent but made it very definite that he was in entire agreement with the necessity for the project.

The President approved our ideas about taking a few members of the Congress to Tennessee and concurred in the advisability of leaving the choice to the Speaker for the House and to Senator Barkley for the Senate.

^{present} The Secretary and myself both emphasized to the President that our interest was purely military, that while there was unquestionably great prospects for future commercial developments our immediate prospects were military only and it was towards that field that our entire effort was devoted. The steps taken by us to secure control of raw materials were discussed at considerable length and the reasons why I had been first opposed to and later in favor of bringing the British into the project, (i.e., the securing of the Belgian Congo ore) was brought out distinctly.

The Secretary stated that the entire work was under the charge of General Groves and expressed his entire confidence in him. The President replied that he had known General Groves for a number of years and had the highest regard for him.

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J. Groves