

TOP SECRET

EYES ONLY

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Dear Secretary Forrestal:

As per our recent conversation on this matter, you are hereby authorized to proceed with all due speed and caution upon your undertaking. Hereafter this matter shall be referred to only as Operation Majestic Twelve.

It continues to be my feeling that any future considerations relative to the ultimate disposition of this matter should rest solely with the Office of the President following appropriate discussions with yourself, Dr. Bush and the Director of Central Intelligence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Truman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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COPY ONE OF ONE.

SUBJECT: OPERATION MAJESTIC-12 PRELIMINARY BRIEFING FOR  
PRESIDENT-ELECT EISENHOWER.

DOCUMENT PREPARED 18 NOVEMBER, 1952.

BRIEFING OFFICER: ADM. ROSCOE H. HILLENKOETTER (MJ-1)

NOTE: This document has been prepared as a preliminary briefing  
only. It should be regarded as introductory to a full operations  
briefing intended to follow.

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OPERATION MAJESTIC-12 is a TOP SECRET Research and Development/  
Intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the  
President of the United States. Operations of the project are  
carried out under control of the Majestic-12 (Majic-12) Group  
which was established by special classified executive order of  
President Truman on 24 September, 1947, upon recommendation by  
Dr. Vannevar Bush and Secretary James Forrestal. (See Attachment  
"A".) Members of the Majestic-12 Group were designated as follows:

- Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter
- Dr. Vannevar Bush
- Secy. James V. Forrestal\*
- Gen. Nathan P. Twining
- Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg
- Dr. Detlev Bronk
- Dr. Jerome Hunsaker
- Mr. Sidney W. Souers
- Mr. Gordon Gray
- Dr. Donald Menzel
- Gen. Robert M. Montague
- Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner

The death of Secretary Forrestal on 22 May, 1950, created  
a vacancy which remained unfilled until 31 August, 1950, upon  
which date Gen. Walter B. Smith was designated as permanent  
replacement.

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