

"The Secretary of State, acting on instructions from the President, outlined a plan for maintaining the status quo, and also for conducting exploratory discussions with the British and Canadians. In this way, Mr. Acheson pointed out, time would be gained in which the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government might consult with each other. Moreover, talks between the United States, Britain, and Canada would acquaint each with the others' viewpoint and thus permit all concerned to proceed with added perspective. As had been explained to the Committee previously, no agreements would be concluded and no change whatsoever in existing arrangements would be made until the results of the talks had been made known to and discussed with the Joint Committee. At that time it could be determined what Congressional action is needed."

C. President Truman's Statement of July 28, 1949 Announcing Forthcoming Exploratory Talks with British and Canadians.

1. Blair House Conference.

"On July 14 I consulted with a group of Congressional leaders, including ranking members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, concerning certain problems which this country faces in the field of atomic energy. Since that time members of the administration have held discussions with Congressional leaders, particularly with the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Further discussions will take place, as it is essential that action in this field which so vitally affects the security of the country be based on a wide area of agreement between the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government.

"In this field it is important that the people of the country be kept informed to the greatest extent consistent with the requirements of national security, and in a manner consistent with the orderly processes of consultation between the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government. I feel I can now mention briefly some of the factors involved in the problem."

2. Review of War Time Co-operation.

"As a result of consultation among American, British and Canadian scientists beginning in 1939, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada agreed in 1943 to concentrate a major effort in the United States for the purpose of producing an atomic bomb at the earliest possible time. A British scientific mission participated extensively in the research and development and later in the production of atomic bombs at Los Alamos. They participated in the preparation for, and the evaluation of, the Bikini tests. Similar scientific missions were assigned to research and development work concerned with the construction and operation of the principal plants for the separation of U-235 at Oak Ridge. British and Canadian scientists consulted our scientific and technical personnel at the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago on the design of the heavy water reactor which they subsequently built at Chalk River, Canada.

"Early in 1947 the three countries adopted a uniform system for handling the information which had been jointly developed and for determining what should be kept secret and what was appropriate for public release."