

January 17, 1950

White House Conference on Fallout Protection

Suggested Joint Press Statement by the Government

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This meeting, held with President Eisenhower and the military, and the participation of members of his administration was of major and significant importance. We wish all of our citizens could have participated in it.

The statements of the President, the Secretary of State, and the remarks of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission have collectively established the need for fallout protection for American citizens. The threat of a nuclear attack against us is not only a possibility but is an urgent requirement of national policy.

If our foreign policy is to be effective, if our foreign negotiations are to be successful, if our military dependence is to be assured, if the American people are to have the security they will to resist nuclear threats, if our children are to survive in the event of a nuclear attack, it is unthinkable and a desperate need to take immediate action.

for each of these reasons, the highest protection of our citizens is imperative.

We are satisfied from the presentation we heard today that, while there will be many problems, a very high degree of protection from fallout can be achieved, that it is achievable now and achievable at a cost within the means of our people and nation.

[State here what the Governors believe must, as a minimum, be done by the Federal Government beyond what they are now doing.]

Our immediate task, as Governors, is to cooperate with Federal officials, to agree upon a program of state and local action which, together with programs of Federal support, will make fallout a serious threat for our citizens as readily as soon as possible.

To this task we shall now turn with confidence that, by discharging this responsibility successfully, we will contribute a significant contribution to our nation's quest for a more meaningful peace and peace founded on liberty, justice, and freedom for all men.