

It was not clear from your letter on what ground the report is being denied to the Disarmament Subcommittee. In the past the Department of State has been most cooperative in sharing with members of the subcommittee on an executive basis a vast amount of material dealing with the problem of disarmament. During the 1957 disarmament negotiations in London, for example, Mr. Dulles arranged for all reports, cables, and other records to be made available for the examination of the subcommittee members. You may also recall that during the discussion of U.S. policy in the Middle East a few years ago the Department shipped an enormous quantity of material dealing with policy matter to the Foreign Relations Committee.

With respect to the sharing of the Coolidge report with members of the Disarmament Subcommittee, I would like to know whether the Department's position has changed. If it has changed and it is the intent of the Department not to reveal to the subcommittee the contents of the report may I know on what ground and under what authority the information is being denied.

I am sure that you appreciate my concern that these questions be clarified.

Sincerely,

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 23, 1960.

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR HUBERT: In your letter of March 30 you refer again to the Coolidge report, which has been the subject of previous communications between us, and also to the procedures established during the 1957 disarmament negotiations for keeping Disarmament Subcommittee members informed about the course of negotiations.

With regard to the current disarmament meetings, we already provide the subcommittee with the verbatim records and conference documents for both the 10-Nation Disarmament Conference and the nuclear test discussions. If you desire we would be pleased to discuss measures to expand this cooperation.

With regard to the Coolidge report, however, I must reiterate the position I took in my letters of February 17 and March 21. This study was prepared solely for the advice and internal use of myself and the Secretary of Defense. It is essential to effective administration that employees of the executive branch be in a position to be fully candid in advising with each other on official matters, and that the broadest range of individual opinions and advice be available in the formulation of decisions and policy. The disclosure of such opinion and advice can tend to impair or prohibit essential reporting and decisionmaking processes, and such disclosure has therefore been withheld in the past as contrary to the national interest, where such action was deemed necessary for the protection of orderly and effective operations of the executive branch.

With warmest personal regards,
Most sincerely,

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER.