

time since each task force looked at a different means for containment of the Soviet Union. One of the Groups was headed by George Kennan. Interesting enough the huge historical Study The Wise Men which deals with six major foreign policy figures in the middle decades of this century never mentions Solarium even though one of the six was George Kennan. In short the secret was well kept, indeed, even though many important people were involved.

The fact of the matter is that the absence of a signature on the Cutler-Twining memo turns out to be extraordinarily important. It was determined by Robert Todd, a researcher who has written well over a thousand Freedom of Information requests over the years to various archives. Bob wrote for more information about Cutler's activities and from the Eisenhower library obtained information that Cutler was out of the country on the date of the Cutler Twining memo!! Thus, if there had been a signature or even a "/s/" to indicate that he had signed the original, there would be a real difficulty. He could not be in Europe and Washington at the same time. The absence of the signature, however, suggests another possibility, because Todd also turned up a memo from Cutler to James Lay, the executive Secretary of the National Security Council and Lay's close associate Mr. Coyne who actually worked for the FBI instructing them to keep things moving out of his in basket (See Appendix B). Lay was a career public servant. He had served in Military Intelligence during the War. In 1947 he was the Assistant Executive Secretary under Sydney Souers who was the first Executive Secretary of the National Security Council and also the first director of the Central Intelligence Group and a valued and trusted advisor to Truman long after his leaving the NSC at the end of 1950. Souers is also listed as a member of MJ-12. Lay stayed on in a non-political way as Ike's Executive Secretary of the National Security Council right through the end of Ike's term in January, 1961. Lay and Cutler worked very very closely together. They sat next to each other at the regular weekly meetings of the NSC. They handled paper work together. They seemed to each get copies of the other's memos. For example, Lay's name is on the distribution list for the June 25th, 1953, memorandum for the Secretary of Defence from Cutler.

My suggestion, since there were specific instructions to Lay to keep things moving out of Cutler's basket, was that Lay sent the memo to Twining in Cutler's name. This will be discussed in more detail later. I also was able to determine that Lay had met with President Eisenhower (with Lay's assistant, S. Everett Gleason) at 2:30 pm on the date of the Cutler Twining memo July 14, 1954, and that, according to the phone logs, there was a brief phone conversation between General Eisenhower and James Lay at about 4:35 pm.

It should be further stressed that there was regular courier service between the White House and the Pentagon, not far away. For classified matters there was a regular flow of information back and forth. My own hypothesis is that Ike asked Lay to notify Twining that there was a slight change in plans which would influence Twining's schedule, since a briefing was to take place