

activity, how long it would go on, how soon there would be a confrontation, if any, with aliens or with the public with evidence. It appears to be the kind of thing that was done to provide Forrestal with an authorization should one be necessary for use of government funds, people, etc. for the effort.

It should be noted, of course, that they would have to call it something or other, that it might well be that one administration passing the power on to another of a different party and different people and would try to justify things on a rather formal basis. Ike, after all had been a military commander, was accustomed to dealing with orders of one kind or another and they might have wanted to provide him with some kind of formal authorization.

A peculiar thing about the Truman Forrestal memo (from a style and format viewpoint) is that it is clear when examined on the original print that the date "September 24, 1947." has three aspects which are disturbing. First of all the "24, 1947." has a slightly different line location than the word September. That is if one draws a line under the word September it will come well below the day and year. The memo had to be in the typewriter at least twice. Secondly, it turns out that it is different type. If one compares the comma in the text, a different typewriter was used to type the "24, 1947." implying that the date might have been added later or added some place else.

The "some place else" is suggested by the period after the date. While there are occasional items from Truman's office with the period after the date, the great majority do not have such a period. One office which almost invariably used the period after the date was that of Dr. Vannevar Bush. Almost invariably, his secretaries put a period after the date and a period after the typed-in closing name: Vannevar Bush. A third peculiar thing is that there is a signature on the memo. If some kind of executive order (or whatever one wants to call it) was sent to Forrestal then his original should have had Truman's signature, but the copy at the White House would not! It might have had a rubber stamped original "signed by Harry Truman" on it.

Then the question arises is the signature genuine? And if it wasn't on the original, where did this copy come from and why is there a signature on it at all? This presents a real puzzle. There are several possibilities here. One, that the memo was prepared and signed by Truman and kept by Forrestal with copies perhaps made for Bush and for the head of the CIA, Admiral Hillenkoetter, since both are mentioned in the memo. Both were extremely well known for their discretion. Forrestal remained in office until March of 1949, then resigned, was soon hospitalized and committed suicide in May of 1949. There is a real question as to what happened to his files, would he have had a copy of this in it, were those files automatically turned over to his successor who was Lewis Johnson? We simply do not know. We do know that Forrestal was mentally disturbed for months before his suicide. There was even an active investigation because he made requests of the FBI to check out that people who were "spying" on him, and all kinds of paranoid manifestations. One possibility is that