

to] MSA RE Briefing for President Elect European Defence Production. Another similar entry beginning OFEDA 2 EMSA Re: Briefing for President Elect, International Export controls. On card 5A also "18NOV52 memo from Nash to Secretary of Defence RE Briefings for the President Elect." It's the latter two that are still unavailable.

So it does seem to have been appropriate that the Truman administration was responsible for making sure that there were all kinds of briefings for Ike and that they were dated 18 November 1952. According to Ed Reese at the National Archives nobody else that he is aware of has called his attention to these "Briefings" listings. Unfortunately, these file cards are classified from 1953 on. There were many boxes of these cards and I was unable to go through them because of the classification. So that date, at least, is appropriate. There, of course, may well have been other briefings from other departments in the Office of the Secretary of Defence. I have not yet found reference to them although I have written numerous letters to the Eisenhower and Truman libraries and have obtained quite a bit of background information.

There is a date on the "Special Classified Executive Order from President Truman 24 September 1947". There are other aspects about this memo which will be discussed below, but the date at least passes muster.

Here is an extract from a letter to me from the Harry S. Truman Library, dated June 23, 1987:

"Our regulations do not permit us to pass on the authenticity of documents or handwriting".... "president Truman's appointment records indicate that his only meeting with Dr. Vannevar Bush between May and December 31, 1947 was on September 24, 1947. Dr. Bush was accompanied at that meeting by Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. There is no indication in the files as to what was discussed at the meeting."

The letter was in response to my letter dated June 17, 1987, as a follow up to a phone conversation after I had seen a full clean copy of the Nov. 18, 1952, briefing and the Truman-Forrestal Memo of Sept. 24, 1947.

In addition, I was able to discover from both Bush's files and Forrestal's files, that Bush and Forrestal met for half an hour prior to their meeting with Truman and left the White House together. There are notes in their files about the meeting (unclassified ones). They were observed by reporters as they were leaving the White House, so there had to be some kind of a cover story. One of the things that apparently took place at the meeting was Bush's acceptance of the appointment by Truman to be head of the newly formed Joint Research and Development Board (JRDB). It certainly is conceivable that the two men prepared a memo for Truman's signature. In any event, the date is unique. No other date for that eight-month period would have the same significance