

Note that the 5412 Committee, of which Gray was chairman, deals with covert activities such as U2 flights over the USSR.

From Cross Reference Sheet March 1, 1954 name: Humphrey, Senator Hubert H. 3/10/51 the president sent memo to Admiral Souers attaching papers from Sen. Humphrey that he examine them carefully and prepare a reply for his signature." Typical indication that items for HST's signature were prepared by others such as MJ-12 member Souers who had finished his stint as NSC Exec. Sec. in 1950.

A peculiar aspect of the Cutler Twining memo is the absence of a signature or the "/s/." The July 13, 1953 memo does have a signature and the Top Secret memo of June 25, 1953, for the Secretary of Defence, which is clearly referring to the same extraordinary all-day meeting on Thursday, July 16th, 1953, mentions Project Solarium, again, without the slightest clue as to what Project Solarium deals with. In this case there is the "/s/" next to the name. Clearly this was a copy of a memo not an original, and it was to the Secretary of Defence even though we found it in the General Twining files. It is important to recognize that there was obviously a slight mistake here. The Top Secret EYES ONLY memo is more highly classified than a Top Secret memo, yet the Top Secret one mentions Project Solarium and the Top Secret EYES ONLY memo, 18 days later, does not mention Solarium by name.

It turns out that Project Solarium was extraordinarily important in determining the foreign policy of the entire Eisenhower administration. Three different task forces were established each looking at a different means of containment of the Soviet Union, each involving very important inside people. For example, George Kennan, one of the world's experts on the Soviet Union headed one of the three task forces. The entire business was coordinated by none other than General James H. Doolittle (PhD in aeronautics) who had Ike's full trust and was a very competent individual who, post World War Two, kept a relatively low profile. This was in contrast with his pre-War flying exploits and his activities during the War such as the raid on Tokyo which did so much to help the morale of the allies after the crushing defeats at Pearl Harbor and in the Pacific.

I made a number of inquiries about Operation Solarium and learned that the Eisenhower Library had the three Task Force Final Reports, that they were lengthy and Top Secret and that there were various references to Solarium in NSC minutes and agendas and meeting notices for the summer of 1953. Some of the latter were declassified for me by the NSC File custodians at the National Archives. The EL people thought the reports were never declassifiable but that was too pessimistic. As it happens I was turned down on my initial requests and upon appeal, but two years later the first two volumes were released with very light censoring. It turns out that the month-long meetings of the task forces had an important impact on U.S. foreign policy for a long