Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

DATE: May 11, 1953

SUBJECT: ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

Roy Cohn called me from Miami on Sunday afternoon. He stated that Senator Stuart Symington (D., Missouri) is very much concerned over the controversy that has existed between the military and Robert Oppenheimer on the development of the atomic project; that Symington has inside information and feels that the situation is very bad; that there is a definite slow down on the atomic project. He was wondering what I thought about their calling in Oppenheimer and launching an investigation.

I told Cohn that this, of course, was a matter for the Committee to decide, but that it did seem to me that they should not be precipitous, and they should take into consideration several factors such as the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the fact that Oppenheimer does have a following of scientists, and the overall situation.

Cohn stated that he was going to try to keep Senator McCarthy down in Florida with him for another day or two and would contact me upon his return. If he does, I think the Oppenheimer situation is a good one for us to stay out of and I will take this position. If, however, the Committee presses, I will advise Cohn we will take the matter up with the Department unless there are contrary instructions.

cc: Mr. Ladd
Mr. Belmont

LBN:arm

RECORDED - 56

INDEXED 56

EX. - 111

MAY 15 1953