

able Cong comites on confidential basis at their request. Brit Petroleum att so advised which may be basis Brit info that report likely be released soon.

Position Dept will take in event report pub not yet decided and you may so inform Brit.

FYI only Pres has requested Attorney Gen institute appropriate legal proceedings with respect to operations of internatl oil cartel.³ Pres also requested State and other US agencies to cooperate with Attorney gen on gathering evidence required for these proceedings. For past several months Dept has been developing position to present to US oil cos looking toward basic improvement in practices of internatl oil industry but in view pending Dept of Justice proceedings not decided what action if any along these lines will now be taken.

Sonj considers it must answer rumors recently appearing pub press re FTC Report involving Sonj fon operations and ltr presenting Sonj position will be sent to stockholders and employees of Sonj and press this week. Copy Sonj ltr and copy FTC Report being sent via air pouch today.

BRUCE

³ For additional documentation, see vol. 1, Part 2, pp. 1259 ff.

No. 262

800.954/7-2852

*Memorandum by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs (Linder)*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

[WASHINGTON,] July 28, 1952.

Subject: Grand Jury Investigation of the Cartel Activities of the International Oil Companies.

On June 23 the President sent the Secretary the attached memorandum.² You will note that the President had requested the Attorney General to institute appropriate legal proceedings with respect to the operations of the international oil cartel, and that he

¹ Drafted by Eakens and sent to Byroade, Miller, Perkins, Allison, and Fisher.

² The memorandum, dated June 23, not printed, was also sent to the Federal Trade Commission and the Secretaries of Defense, Interior, and Commerce. It informed them that the President had requested the Attorney General to institute the appropriate legal proceedings with respect to the operations of the international oil cartel, and he asked the recipients of the memorandum to cooperate in gathering evidence required for the proceedings.