

dures. After the meeting I had a few words with Jimmy Lay who said he thought the President would wish to move swiftly on this matter and requested that we should let him have an announcement, as provided in the recommendations, as soon as possible.

At Mr. Bruce's suggestion, Mr. Fisher is undertaking to prepare such a statement in conjunction with Defense and will get in touch with Mr. Lay for this purpose.

The question of whether Mr. Truman should appoint the Commission or should recommend its appointment to his successor was left undecided for the reason indicated above.

CHARLES E. BOHLEN

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No. 283

PPS files, lot 64 D 563, "Strategic materials toil"

*The President to the Attorney General (McGranery)*<sup>1</sup>

WASHINGTON, January 12, 1953.

DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL: As a result of factors which have emerged since the institution of the current grand jury investigation of the international activities of the major oil companies, I am of the opinion that the interest of national security might be best served at this time by resolving the important questions of law and policy involved in that investigation in the context of civil litigation rather than in the context of a criminal proceeding. However, I believe that this would be the case only if the companies involved agreed to the production of documentary material which the companies are required to produce under an existing order of court based on grand jury subpoenas.

Consequently, I ask that you promptly confer with representatives of the companies to ascertain if they will agree to enter into a stipulation to that effect. If they will, I ask that a civil proceeding be instituted accordingly and that appropriate steps be taken to cause the termination of the pending grand jury proceedings.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

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<sup>1</sup> Source text taken from White House press release.