

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

United States Senate
Minority Leader

Anti Nuclear Test

June 26, 1961

Dear :

My suggestion for firmer action in the Test Ban Conference in Geneva springs from two considerations. The first is that there have been 296 fruitless and abortive sessions and in all that time the Soviet Union has had a chance to proceed with underground tests since these cannot be detected. We, however, have placed a voluntary restraint upon our own actions.

Secondly, my suggestion is quite in line with the assurances given by Mr. Kennedy when he was a candidate in 1960. He stated specifically at that time that if the Geneva Conference was still in session and if he were elected President he would insist on reasonable but definite limitations on a further consideration of this matter.

In my judgment the danger really lies in the fact that Soviet authorities can continue this work without detection while United States research in this field is at a standstill. In my judgment that is a dangerous and illogical situation to be in.

Sincerely

Everett McKinley Dirksen

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Illinois

United States Senate
Minority Leader

NUCLEAR TESTING

SEPT 19, 1961

Dear :

After 296 fruitless and abortive sessions of the nuclear test ban negotiations in Geneva, the recent activities of the Soviet Union in exploding many nuclear devices in the atmosphere should expose for all to see the bad faith and deceit which has marked their participation in these discussions.

The President therefore had no other recourse but to order a resumption of our own underground testing program.

I do appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

United States Senate
Minority Leader

(for and against)
Nuclear Testing

Nov. , 1961

Dear :

Distasteful as it may be to resume nuclear testing, and difficult as it might be to persuade world opinion on this point, yet by far the greater evil would be to fall behind in the nuclear race and find ourselves negotiating from weakness rather than strength and hence the resumption of nuclear testing must be considered from the standpoint of our survival.

If it is the considered opinion of those charged with the security of our country that testing be resumed, I would attach great weight to such views.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen