

of atomic weapons followed by a pause during which it was hoped that the enemy would desist. If not, further nuclear strikes would be carried out.

Dulles raised the question that if the anticipated reaction against the use of nuclear weapons, particularly by American allies, was so hostile that we would be inhibited from using them except in the NATO theatre or in retaliation against a Soviet attack, our reliance on them might not be correct and productive. Burke replied that we were engaged in part in a war of nerves. Opposition to the use of nuclear weapons in Japan, for example, was inspired by the Communists. If an attack persisted; the United States could enter with nuclear weapons or lose the Islands, which would result in the loss of Taiwan. A strong nuclear counterattack would result in international opposition, Burke continued, but the leaders of other countries would soon realize that it was in their interests. The United States must stand firm with conventional weapons as long as possible but then must be prepared to use nuclear weapons. Otherwise we would lose the whole world within three years.