

September 29, 1946

**Letter from Igor V. Kurchatov to Lavrenti Beria
requesting additional support for the project on
building an atomic bomb.**

Citation:

"Letter from Igor V. Kurchatov to Lavrenti Beria requesting additional support for the project on building an atomic bomb.", September 29, 1946, Wilson Center Digital Archive, I.N. Golovin, "Kurchatov - uchenyi, gosudarstvennyi deiatel', chelovek" ["Kurchatov--Scholar, Government official, Man"], in Materialy iubeleinoi sessii uchenogo soveta tsentra 12 ianvaria 1993 g. [Materials of the Jubilee Session of the Academic Council of the Center, 12 January 1993] (Moscow: Russian Scientific Center "Kurchatov Institute," 1993), pp. 24-25 <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/111529>

Summary:

Igor Kurchatov, the scientific director of the Soviet nuclear project writes secret police chief Lavrenti Beria, whom Stalin had given principal responsibility for the atomic effort, asking for additional resources to solve uranium shortages faced by the project.
(excerpts)

Original Language:

Russian

Contents:

Translation - English

[...]

In our letters to you, Comrade M.G. Pervukhin [Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and a key atomic administrator] and I reported on the status of work on the uranium problem and of the colossal development of this work abroad. ... around this issue there has been created abroad a concentration of scientific and engineering-technical power on a scale never been seen in the history of world science, and which has already achieved the most priceless results.

In our country, despite major improvement in work on uranium in 1943-44, the situation remains completely unsatisfactory....

Though I know that you are extremely busy, in view of the historic meaning of the uranium problem I all the same decided to disturb You and to ask You to order an effort which would correspond to the potential and significance of our Great State in world culture.

[...]