



OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

407156

November 1, 1954

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE OCB
ON NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECTS AND RELATED INFORMATION PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING NSC 5431/1)
FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 10-OCTOBER 15, 1954,
AS REQUIRED BY TERMS OF REFERENCE DATED MAY 12, 1954.

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SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS TAKEN

1. In response to the terms of reference dated May 12, 1954 (Secret), the OCB Working Group on Nuclear Energy Projects and Related Information Programs maintained a watching brief on governmental actions and programs in the nuclear energy field which were capable of significantly influencing overseas climate of opinion, and formulated advice to the Board with respect to the timing and method of handling thereof, particularly in relation to the schedule of other projected governmental actions. These included:

- (a) The announcement of the conclusions of the Pacific Nuclear Weapons Test Series, "Operation Castle", May 13, 1954.
- (b) FCDA-ODM Information Program for the June 14-15 Nationwide Civil Defense Exercise (Confidential), May 25, 1954.
- (c) AEC announcement of recent radioactive fall-out on the United States, published in AEC Semi-Annual Report July 7, 1954.

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By <u>DJH</u> NLE Date <u>1/5/90</u>

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- (d) Announcement of readying Nevada Proving Ground for a series of tests in late winter 1955 - September 25, 1954.
- (e) Response to correspondent's inquiries on announcement of the establishment of a small staff section of Joint Task Force Seven - October 15, 1954.

2. As directed by the Board, the Working Group developed draft guidelines for a major domestic address by the President of the United States on the subject "The United States in the Nuclear Age". Significant portions of this draft were utilized by the President in his Labor Day Speech in connection with the ground-breaking ceremonies for the first commercially-sponsored nuclear electric power plant at Shippingport, Pa. Other significant sections, principally those dealing with problems of nuclear disarmament, were utilized in speeches by members of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations.

3. On a limited basis, liaison was continued with the departmental and agency domestic information officers who were concerned with the implementation of the peaceful application of nuclear energy outlined in the President's December 8th speech. The Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, and Health, Education and Welfare evinced the most interest in this program, and continued to utilize significant opportunities to develop public statements and events which could be cross-reported in USIA's overseas output.

4. In addition to the foregoing, the Atomic Energy Commission,

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working in conjunction with the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, created various source documents with respect to medical and agricultural utilization of nuclear energy.

5. Liaison with Non-Governmental Groups. The U.S. Information Agency's program of liaison with professional groups bore fruit during this period with the passage by three international organizations of resolutions supporting President Eisenhower's atomic energy proposals. These were the International Council of Women, (Helsinki-June), the Congress of Medical Women's International Associations (Lake Garda, Italy-September), and the British Cooperatives Guild Congress (Brighton, England-May).

The United States Information Agency has explored "ways and means of establishing awards for outstanding contributions to non-military applications of atomic energy", pursuant to point 7(c) of "Recommended Implementing Actions" of the OCB paper of March 15, 1954. The Atomic Industrial Forum is enthusiastically willing to sponsor such awards but lacks funds. Several philanthropic foundations have been contacted, so far without success. Explorations are continuing.

6. Implementation of the OCB-approved "program to exploit the A-Bank proposals of the President's UN speech of December 8, 1953", dated March 15, 1954, was continued during the period under review, particularly by AEC action and USIA cross-reporting in connection with a continuing series of public events, including an International Nuclear Engineering Conference in June 1954; press and photographic views of

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unclassified portions of the National Reactor Testing station, August 17 and 20; AEC staff participation in public discussion of peacetime application of nuclear energy, at various conferences of the Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc., and the National Industrial Conference Board.

7. Radio. On the Voice of America the subject has been given consistent attention above all others. It has been useful both as the major positive program with automatic appeal, and also as a counterbalance to negative reactions abroad, such as protests against U.S. A- and H-bomb testing.

8. Press and Publications. Since July 1 the U.S. Information Agency's press service has maintained Atoms for Peace as its top priority subject, as in the preceding six months. The daily wireless file, transmitted by radio to agency offices overseas for placement in the foreign press, has carried a total of 91 news items during this period.

9. Motion Pictures. A series of three 20-minute special films are in production. The first, tentatively titled "Consecrated to Life", serves as an introduction to the series, pointing up the President's international atomic agency plan. The second film is described by its title "Atomic Energy in Medicine", and the third, titled "Atomic Energy Works for Peace", deals with applications in industry and agriculture. In addition, extensive use was made on an unattributed basis of numerous newsreel shots showing peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the United States. These films were viewed by audiences in 34 countries.

10. Information Centers. Three atoms for peace exhibits are now showing.

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Sao Paulo - Opened August 21, runs until early 1955; Germany - Opened September 25 at Berlin Fair, tours Germany after Fair closes; Italy - Opened in Rome on June 15, now touring 18 cities in Italy.

Three more exhibits are in preparation:

Belgium - Opens November 10; will tour Belgium for nine weeks, then planned for Netherlands and UK; South Asia - Opening planned for New Delhi early in 1955, then will tour India and East Pakistan; Middle East - Opening planned for Karachi early 1955; will tour Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and possibly Greece and Iran.

Aside from these large special shows, an exhibit composed of 27 large color panels will be sent in quantity to all agency information centers during November.

11. Books. Fifteen foreign-language editions of Gordon Dean's "Report on the Atom" are in process of publication. The Burmese edition was published in September 1954.

12. Implementation of NSC 5431/1. Responsible officers of both the Department of State and the Atomic Energy Commission who are specifically charged with the implementation of NSC 5431/1, "Cooperation with Other Nations in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy", dated August 13, 1954, have kept the Working Group informed of the progress of implementation of the specific courses of action, and have sought the advice of the Working Group with respect to ways and means of ensuring that maximum psychological advantage accrues to the United States from proposed actions in this field, particularly with respect to:

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- (a) Negotiations to establish an International Atomic Energy Agency (para. 4, NSC 5431/1).
- (b) The organization of an International Conference on peaceful uses of atomic energy (para. 5a, NSC 5431/1).
- (c) Program of aid in construction of research and medical reactors in selected countries (para. 5b - NSC 5431/1).
- (d) Training programs, provision of technical information and consulting services to aid other countries in building up their capabilities to use atomic energy (para. 5c - NSC 5431/1). In addition to the AEC implementing program personally presented to the Board by AEC Chairman Strauss, copies of which were furnished to the Working Group, the Director, FOA, instituted a study of capabilities within his agency to support the technical training of foreign students in nuclear subjects on a non-classified basis.

13. Appraisal of Effectiveness. During the period under review, evidence continued to accumulate that the President's peaceful uses program enlisted a large measure of world interest. In the view of the London Economist, which to a large degree is representative of sophisticated international political opinion, the proposal constituted "genuine psychological warfare". However, in countries with advanced technology, significant elements of opinion continue to reserve judgment as to the scope of future specific U.S. implementing actions, inasmuch as they are particularly interested in obtaining from the United States the

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means of developing practical operating experience. In technologically less-advanced countries, there is a tendency to view the U.S. program as a panacea for basic economic ills; and opinion leaders tend to look forward more to the acquisition of complete nuclear power systems rather than face the realities of acquiring the basic technical skills through participation in research programs.

14. Major Emerging Problems. The planned series of nuclear weapons tests, both in Nevada and in the Pacific Proving Grounds, can be expected to raise various climate of opinion problems abroad, especially in the Far East. On behalf of the Operations Coordinating Board, the Working Group will be in a position to advise the respective operating agencies as to their public information plans for those events, and will be prepared to recommend whatever actions may be necessary to minimize such climate of opinion adverse effects of such testing as may occur.

15. Public disclosure of the effects of thermo-nuclear weapons, particularly radioactive fall-out, is of major significance not only to the Federal Civil Defense Administration but has an important bearing on foreign climate of opinion and, under certain circumstances, widespread release of information could adversely affect international security interests. It is understood that a special Cabinet Committee is formulating recommendations with respect to public disclosure of information and that the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission will seek the advice of OCB with respect to the manner and timing of release

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of information concerning this phenomenon.

16. World expectations with respect to the early utilization of nuclear energy as a source of power appear to be higher than warranted by the technical and cost factors involved. This imposes an obligation on our information services to publicize in context the complexity of the various technical problems, lest the United States be accused of deliberately withholding a boon to mankind. From an OCB standpoint, a corollary obligation is imposed on policy makers to make sure that the technological attack on the problem is maintained at a pace which is consistent with foreign interest in the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy and with the recognized importance of maintaining U.S. technical leadership over the USSR. A subcommittee of the NSC Planning Board investigating this problem is cognizant of these factors.

NOTE: Annex setting forth the detailed activities of the various departments and agencies in support of the various implementing papers will be furnished separately to the members of the Working Group.

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