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WFO: 972006
By DM LJA Date 6/23/05

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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May 16, 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSIONERS AND GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: NOTES ON INFORMAL MEETING - 3:30 p.m., THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1956

At 3:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 26, 1956, an informal meeting was held in the Chairman's Office. Those present were:

W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance

R. W. Cook
William Mitchell

W. B. McCool
William L. Oakley

A. Tammaro
W. Kenneth Davis
Harry H. Gorman
Rear Adm. H. G. Rickover
Brig. Gen. Donald J. Keirn
Ulysses M. Staebler
Morse Salisbury
Col. Carey L. O'Bryan, Jr.
Capt. John W. Gannon
Lawrence P. Gise
David B. Anthony
Don S. Burrows
Francis J. McCarthy
G. Norman Rogers
Victor Corso
James A. Miller
George G. Manov
Manuel Dupkin II
Richard J. Hallinan
Ruth Thomas

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 09/13/01	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER): 0
AUTHORITY: E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.8	CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: UNCLASSIFIED
NAME: Bell, J. H.	2. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
END REVIEW DATE: 11/29/01	3. COORDINATE WITH: [initials]
AUTHORITY: [initials]	4. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
NAME: [initials]	5. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): [initials]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 06/21/95	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER): 0
AUTHORITY: E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.8	CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: UNCLASSIFIED
NAME: [initials]	2. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
2ND REVIEW DATE: 6-28-95	3. COORDINATE WITH: [initials]
AUTHORITY: [initials]	4. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
NAME: [initials]	5. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): [initials]

(Since a quorum of the Commission was not present and no formal Commission business was done, minutes will not be prepared for this meeting. Page numbers after each item refer to the transcript of the meeting.)

The following subjects were discussed:

1. Report on Operation REDWING (pp. 2 - 4)

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Mr. Salisbury then referred

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to a press release announcing the beginning of Operation REDWING and said that the Department of State and USIA had concurred in the press release. The Commissioners indicated that they had no objection to such a press release.

2. Items of Information

a. Staff Paper on Government Indemnity of Hazards of Atomic Energy Facilities (p.5)

Mr. Cook informed the Commissioners that a staff paper would be issued shortly for Commission consideration during the week of April 30, concerning a proposed government program to provide indemnity for hazards of atomic energy facilities.

b. Amendment of U. S. - U. K. Bilateral Agreement (pp. 5-6)

Mr. Cook reported that Mr. Strauss had concurred in amendment of the U. K. and Canadian bilateral agreements to provide for exchange of information on military reactors. He said that the draft amendment would be discussed with the U. K. and Canada and later with Senator Pastore prior to its submission to the President.

c. Speech on Power Reactor Program (p. 6)

Mr. Cook said he had been informed that Senator Gore would make a major address later in the day on his bill to provide for construction of power reactors.

d. Staff Paper on Mr. Murray's Recommendations (p. 6)

Mr. Cook reported that he expected to submit about May 7, a staff paper concerning Mr. Murray's recommendations in his February 23 statement to the JCAE.

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e. Hearings of Government Information Subcommittee (p. 6)

Mr. Libby said that the Executive Director of the JCAE had informed Mr. Traynor that the Special Subcommittee on Government Information of the House Government Operations Committee had indefinitely postponed its hearings about disclosure of restricted data in the McKinney Panel report.

f. Panel for Technical Review of MURA Proposal (pp.6-7)
(See Notes on Executive Session of Informal Meeting on April 24, 1956)

Mr. Libby said that the General Advisory Committee did not wish to undertake the technical review of the MURA accelerator proposal, although they would consider the report of a technical panel. He suggested, therefore, that an AEC panel be selected to review the MURA proposal except for the location and the construction foundation requirements. Mr. Cook said that he would submit the names of the panel members as soon as possible.

g. U. K. and Canadian Views on Classification of Controlled Thermonuclear Reaction Research (p. 7)

Mr. Libby said that Sir John Cockcroft of the U. K. and Mr. W. B. Lewis of Canada had said they were in favor of declassifying research on controlled thermonuclear reactions. He added that the U. K. had already downgraded this information to Confidential, and that, although they wished to declassify all research in this field, they might later wish to classify some information.

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3. AEC 817/17 - Proposed Revisions to FY 1957 Budget Estimates (pp. 7 - 16)

Mr. Cook reviewed a recommended request for supplemental appropriations and authorization legislation for FY 1957.

Mr. Libby suggested that the proposed letter to the Secretary of Defense, requesting confirmation of military requirements, be dispatched and that the Commission consider on April 30 or May 1, the recommended request for supplemental appropriations and authorization legislation. The Commissioners then discussed and agreed upon revisions to the proposed letter to the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Cook reported that Mr. Strauss and Mr. Murray had concurred in the letter.)

4. Agenda* (p. 16)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the agenda for the week of April 30. Also, Mr. Mitchell briefly discussed with the Commissioners the staff's proposals for a government indemnity program for hazards of atomic energy facilities.

5. CDA Discussions**

Mr. Cook reported that meetings would be held with CDA representatives of the U. K. and Canada on May 1 and 2, respectively, and that the results of these meetings would be discussed at the Commission meeting on April 25 prior to the CDA meeting.

* A part of this item is not covered in the transcript of the meeting.

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6. 1956 Fermi Award*

The Commissioners discussed the \$50,000 cash award to Mr. von Neumann which was a part of the Fermi award to him. It was concluded that a check in this amount should be deposited as soon as possible. Mr. Cook said that a news release on the Award would be prepared.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

cc: General Counsel

* This item is not covered in the transcript of the meeting.

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