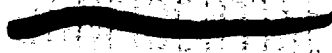


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20th  
AEC-MLC  
Meeting  
11-26-47

1. Announcements

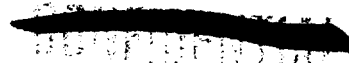
a. Mr. Lilienthal announced a recent conference with the President, attended by Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Lovett, and Admiral Leahy; and for the Commission, General McCormack, Captain Russell, and Mr. Lilienthal. The President approved the memorandum concerning the proof-test program and approved also a directive to the Secretary of National Defense relating to the removal of natives from the test site. In the discussion of a possible public release, the Commission strongly recommended such a release and the inclusion therein of the names of the islands selected as the site. No decision concerning a release was reached. Secretary Marshall will be consulted and the Commission will advise the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

b. Mr. Lilienthal announced also that he had conferred with the President concerning the Commission's supplemental budget for the Fiscal Year 1948 and its budget for the Fiscal Year 1949.

c. Mr. Lilienthal announced that on Monday Representatives Taber and Wigglesworth had visited the Commission to obtain general information concerning its activities.

d. Mr. Strauss referred to the conference on November 17, 1947, for the purpose of briefing representatives of the various Army, Navy, and Air Force agencies, the AFSWP, the RDB, the CIA, and others on the program for long-range detection. He pointed out that responsibility for the program was not fixed on any single individual not subject to military rotation, and that the establishment of a large Advisory Committee only tended to distribute widely the blame for inaction. He stressed his strong personal concern over what appeared to him to be a lack of sense of urgency in the program; during the 2½ years since the first bomb was exploded, no

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action on monitoring is recorded until after the Commission began agitating for action in the spring of 1947. Responsibility was not fixed on the U.S. Air Forces until September 5, and only on November 12 was the Commission notified by the Air Forces that they had that responsibility. He pointed out the disturbing parallel to the radar monitoring at Pearl Harbor.

General Groves advised that staffing of the program was proceeding and that General Hagenberger had been placed in charge as General Kepner's deputy. Dr. Ellis Johnson, who is recommended by Dr. Hafstad and Dr. Bush, is being sought to direct research and development, and General Griswold is being sought to head Operations. Mr. Strauss inquired whether it would be advisable to recommend appointment of a civilian or retired officer to head the detection program, under the supervision of the Air Force, to insure continuity of direction. He inquired further whether the reference in the charter of the program to "atomic explosions" did not place too strict a limitation on the activities of the project. General Brereton stated these suggestions would require exploration before any position could be taken.

e. Mr. Lilienthal reported that the American members of the

CPC had met on Monday; present were Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Lovett, Dr. Bush, and Mr. Lilienthal. Agreement in principle had been reached and a paper on the American position in the forthcoming negotiations with Canada and the United Kingdom was drafted in accordance with this agreement. The State Department had undertaken to advise the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Chairman of the Joint Committee.

f. General Brereton announced that he and Admiral Ofstie would attend the forthcoming meeting of the Commission's Industrial Advisory Group.

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