

MR & A - 7 Redwing

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Agenda Plan. Mr. Fields reported that letters to the press on  
Session 3/30/56 the observer program for Operation REDWING would be dispatched  
S on Monday. Mr. Libby referred to the discussion at the meeting  
the previous day concerning the possible need to declassify the

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approximate yield of some of the devices at Operation REDWING.  
Mr. Fields said that it might be possible, within the terms  
of the present declassification guide, to state to the press  
observers a range for the yield of the detonation they would  
witness. Mr. Libby pointed out that the yield of devices  
detonated on the ground could be calculated easily and observed  
that since the information would be compromised it would not  
be necessary to keep these yields highly classified. However,  
he said the yield of air bursts should not be disclosed since  
this might compromise sensitive information. The Commissioners  
and General Manager then discussed at length the sensitivity  
and extent of knowledge about thermonuclear weapons developments  
in both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. and the comparative level of  
achievement in the field. During this discussion the following  
points were made:

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a. Mr. Libby said he believed it was necessary to be cautious about releasing information on thermonuclear weapons because of the need to protect certain principles used by the U.S. in these weapons. He referred to the Commission's decision not to join with the DOD in determining that thermonuclear weapons information could be transmitted to the U.K.

b. Mr. Vance said he believed that eventually the information would have to be provided the U.K. because of the DOD desire to be able to integrate

U.S., U.K. and Canadian military forces in the event of war. He pointed out that the MLC had indicated that the DOD would seek legislation to do so.

c. Mr. Fields said that from intelligence information on the latest Soviet tests, it appeared that they were already using certain of the principles the Commission regarded as being highly sensitive. He observed that after Operation CASTLE, certain information on the U.S. developments had probably been compromised through the cancellation research on means of using deuterium.

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