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1301st AEC Meeting 8-22-57

5. AEC 952/11 - Fallout Program for HARDTACK (pp. 19-33) (See Minutes of Meeting 1295)

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The Commissioners next considered AEC 952/11 - Fallout Program for HARDTACK, which outlined a program to study world-wide fallout from Operation HARDTACK. The proposed program would eliminate the use of several naval testing ships (YAGS) and an LST for the purpose of collecting samples of local fallout during the Operation. These ships had been used in connection with the fallout program for Operation REDWING. In response to a question by Mr. Libby, Colonel Stewart said the Navy wished to have a Commission decision as soon as possible on whether AEC intended to make use of the two YAGS since the ship had been scheduled to be placed in mothball condition by the end of July 1957 and the cost of maintaining them at the present time was \$5,000 per day.

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Mr. Libby expressed strong reservations about the adequacy of the proposed fallout program and said he did not believe it was in accordance with the Commission decision at Meeting 1276 on April 9, 1957, which established as a major objective of Operation HARDTACK the accurate reporting of local fallout so that offsite fallout might be more precisely determined. Therefore, he said he was prepared to endorse the fallout program for Operation HARDTACK in its present form only if additionally it was agreed to expand the SUNSHINE studies immediately to provide for measurements of the amount of world-wide fallout resulting from Operation HARDTACK. He added that in his opinion, approximately five million dollars would be required in order to finance the expanded SUNSHINE program and added that he would favor using funds allocated to Operation HARDTACK, if this should be necessary. Mr. Libby pointed out that it was essential that re-programming of fallout studies under the SUNSHINE program be undertaken at an early date so that they might be coordinated with Operation HARDTACK.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC  
Carl Wilson 3/23/84  
REVIEWED BY DATE  
H.R. Schmidt 7/15/85  
By: W. Leach 3/18/86

In answer to a question by Mr. Strauss, Mr. Libby said the information on fallout gathered through the SUNSHINE Program would probably require more funds than an expansion of fallout studies in connection with Operation HARDTACK, but that

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latter program seemed too advanced at this time to permit any changes. Mr. Libby said he intended to discuss the present stage of fallout studies planned for Operation HARDTACK during his forthcoming meeting with Mr. Alvin Graves at LASL. He said he had also been conferring with Dr. Dunham regarding organizational changes which were needed in the SUNSHINE Program and about the selection of a qualified director for the program.

The Commissioners then discussed the amount of fallout expected from Operation HARDTACK. Mr. Libby said he had estimated that, based upon the presently scheduled twenty-five shots, offsite fallout would total 9.6 megatons as compared to approximately 6 megatons resulting from Operation REDWING. Mr. Libby requested the staff to prepare an independent estimate of total offsite fallout for Operation HARDTACK to verify his figures. Mr. Strauss said he had understood that the expected fallout for Operation HARDTACK would not exceed that contributed by Operation REDWING. He suggested as one of the goals of HARDTACK that the amount of fission product contamination resulting from the test series be limited so that the peak of world wide stratospheric radioactivity established by any previous U. S. test series would not be exceeded. Furthermore, he pointed out that he had received instructions from the President to reduce the number of shots to less than twenty-five and suggested, therefore, that the weapons laboratory directors meet with the Commission during September to discuss which shots might be eliminated. (See Minutes of Meeting 1300.) He also proposed that the DOD be consulted concerning a revision of their present requirement for five weapons effects test shots. Mr. Libby suggested that, in order to reduce fallout, consideration be given to using smaller or cleaner weapons in the rocket shots planned for the test series.

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Mr. Salisbury commented on the President's statement of July 3, 1957 which had contained a proposal to invite foreign observers to a future test series so that the U. S. might demonstrate the reduction in fallout resulting from the use of cleaner weapons. Mr. Strauss observed that the statement referred only to future U. S. tests for which adequate facilities for foreign observers would be available and said facilities at Operation HARDTACK would be too limited to accommodate foreign observers and their equipment. Mr. Salisbury also commented on the question of admitting foreign press representatives to the test series. Mr. Strauss suggested that the Commission consider this question in the Fall.

After further discussion, the Commission:

a. Approved conducting a fallout program during Operation HARDTACK similar to that outlined in paragraph 7 of AEC 952/11;

b. Approved, as a supplement to the program outlined in paragraph 7 of AEC 952/11, a substantial expansion of the SUNSHINE program to provide measurements of the amount of world-wide fallout resulting from Operation HARDTACK.

[REDACTED]