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November 25, 1952

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR SEVENTIETH AEC-MLC CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary

- \* 1. Attached are revised minutes for the Seventieth AEC-MLC Conference held on August 14, 1952, with the AEC and the MLC versions of the points in conflict arranged in parallel columns.
- 2. These minutes are scheduled for discussion at the AEC-MLC Conference at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, November 25, 1952.

ROY B. SNAPP

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Secretary

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FOUNDER 03M6 AEC-MLC Meetings Agenda Vol 1

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| 2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>11/21/02</u>             | AUTHORITY: <u>DAIS, EO 12958</u>     |
| NAME: <u>John J. ...</u>                     | NAME: <u>John J. ...</u>             |

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~~[Redacted]~~

December 15, 1952

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION - MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SEVENTY-THIRD CONFERENCE

2:00 p.m., October 30, 1952

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Gordon Dean           | McKay Donkin            |
| Henry D. Smyth        | Brig. Gen. K.E. Fields  |
| M.W. Boyer            | Capt. John T. Hayward   |
| Harold L. Price       | Col. E.T. Dorsey        |
| Roy B. Snapp          | Capt. F.L. Ashworth     |
| John H. Stumpf        | Comdr. James M. Dunford |
| Col. Robert G. Butler | Dr. J. Perkins          |

MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Maj. Gen. H.G. Lunker     | Lt. Col. J.A. Geddes            |
| Brig. Gen. F.W. Farrell   | Lt. Col. A.C. Nauman            |
| Rear Adm. F.S. Withington | Maj. L.R. Standifer             |
| Capt. J.S. Russell, (USN) | Comdr. F.E. Somers, AFSWP*      |
| Capt. R.P. Hunter (USN)   | Maj. W.T. White, AFSWP*         |
| Maj. Niel M. Wreidt       | Col. Theron Coulter, AFSWP*     |
| Col. O.S. Richardson      | Comdr. Edward C. Outlaw, AFSWP* |
| Comdr. R.C. Barnes*       |                                 |

\* Briefing Only

1. Operational Suitability Testing

Commander F.E. Somers of AFSWP reviewed the operational testing activities of the three Services. General Fields and General Bunker discussed the question of refunds to the MOD for test weapons returned to the AEC.

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2. Implications of Custody Transfer

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During the ensuing discussion, the following questions were considered:

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b. How does this proposal affect the question of responsibility for providing storage facilities? Would AEC's quality assurance responsibilities best be met by maintaining complete responsibility for some sites or by maintaining relatively small separate facilities at many sites?

Mr. Dean said he understood that General Fields and General Loper were jointly considering the storage question and that they would present recommendations for its resolution.

3. Value of Atomic Weapons

(See AEC letter to MLC on this subject, dated September 30, 1952, and MLC reply, dated October 16, 1952)

General Bunker referred to the AEC's request that the DOD attempt to assess the relative values of atomic weapons. Studies directed to that end have been initiated; however, more specific guidance on the kind of values in which the AEC was most interested would be helpful.

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Mr. Dean said that, recognizing the difficulty of determining weapons values, the AEC had considered that dollar values, relative values as compared with other weapons, or any others that might assist the AEC in weapons production decisions would be useful. The Commission would be happy to receive any information on this subject that might already be available, although the Commission was aware that weapons values are constantly changing.

Mr. Boyer suggested that a direct exchange of views on this subject by the appropriate members of the MLC and AEC staffs might be useful in further defining the problem.

4. Preliminary Discussion of Special Materials (Tritium) Production

(See letter from the AEC to the MLC on this subject, dated October 6, 1952, and MLC reply, dated October 10, 1952)

The group discussed the problem of guidance for the AEC concerning the DOD's requirement for weapons employing tritium; the probable accuracy of the Division of Military Application's estimate of that requirement; and the significance of this question to the Savannah River project.

In the course of discussion the following points were made:



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b. A formal decision by the DOD on requirements for weapons employing tritium will probably not be reached in the immediate future. IMA's estimate of that requirement is perhaps somewhat low.

c. Savannah River construction has reached the point where questions of reactor loading have become acute. The AEC now plans a normal loading for the first reactor. It is important to have as firm knowledge of probable DOD requirements as possible by about the middle of November.

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d. There are certain specific questions that must be answered as fully as possible by that time, in the following order or priority:

(1) How should the first Savannah River pile be loaded?

[REDACTED]

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(3) Are the AEC estimates of the Department of Defense requirements approximately correct?

(4) Shall a converter reactor be constructed?

At an AEC-MLC conference to be held on November 18, the MLC will undertake to provide as full information as possible on matters affecting the answers to these questions.

5. General Discussion

Mr. Dean commented on the problem of public announcements with respect to Operation IVY. The AEC and DOD have agreed that except for statements agreed upon beforehand, no comment will be made after the shots.

Problems of labor relations at Paducah were briefly reviewed.

ROY B. SNAFF,  
Secretary,  
Atomic Energy Commission.

RAYMOND P. HUNTER,  
Captain, U.S.N.,  
Executive Secretary,  
Military Liaison Committee.

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