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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1296

11:30 a.m., Friday, July 26, 1957

REPOSITORY *AMST/College Park*
 COLLECTION *AEC Minutes (92-001)*
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Present

Lewis L. Strauss
W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance

K. E. Fields
Edward Diamond

W. B. McCool

Also Present

Paul F. Foster
Bryan F. LaPlante
John L. McGruder
Calvin Potts
Richard V. Willit

1. French Disarmament Inspection Proposal

The Commissioners discussed a draft letter to Mr. Stassen setting forth AEC views on a French disarmament inspection proposal submitted by M. Jules Moch at the London Disarmament Conference. Mr. Foster pointed out that the proposed inspection plan was inadequate in many respects, especially in its failure to provide for detailed inspection of gaseous diffusion plants. Mr. Libby said he had not yet read the draft letter to Mr. Stassen and after further discussion the Commissioners indicated that subject to Mr. Libby's concurrence the letter should be dispatched to Mr. Stassen.

2. Discussion of ANP Program

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Mr. Fields reported that he and the Director of Reactor Development had met the previous day with Deputy Secretary of Defense Quarles to discuss plans for the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Program. He said an agreement had been reached that AEC would continue to

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
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NAME: <i>HR Schmidt</i>	CLASSIFIED UNDER EXEMPTION CODE
2ND REVIEW DATE: <i>9-11-95</i>	REASON FOR EXEMPTION
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support part of the program with the General Electric Company devoting its efforts to the development of an aircraft nuclear reactor for a SAC bomber, and the Pratt and Whitney Company and Oak Ridge concentrating on other aspects of ANP research and development work.

Mr. Libby questioned whether the DOD had the authority to place a requirement on AEC for a one-hundred fifty million dollar development program for a reactor for a SAC bomber in view of the Administration's economy efforts. He suggested that part of these funds be allocated, instead, to the liquid fuel cycle reactor being developed at Oak Ridge under the ANP program and that efforts be directed toward converting it into a civilian power reactor. Mr. Fields pointed out that funds allocated for the ANP program could not be diverted to the civilian power program. Mr. Libby also said he believed Pratt and Whitney should discontinue their work in the ANP program, and that the Aircraft Reactor Test at Oak Ridge should be halted. After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed to consider the ANP program again at a later meeting.

3. Agenda

The Commissioners approved the agenda for the week of July 29, 1957.

4. Use of YAGS at Operation HARDTACK (See minutes of Meeting 1298)

Mr. Fields briefly discussed with the Commissioners the possibility of using several obsolete naval vessels during Operation HARDTACK for the purpose of gathering fallout data from the weapons tests. Mr. Libby said he favored using the ships, even if the increased cost would necessitate eliminating the testing of a weapons device.

5. Maritime Administration Studies of Gas-Cooled Reactors

Mr. Fields reported that following preliminary studies the Maritime Administration had decided to request from industry proposals to be submitted in September, 1957, for the design and construction of gas-cooled reactors for merchant ships.

Mr. Libby left the meeting, at this point.