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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION - MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

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BOX No. 190 NN3-326-93-000 MINUTES OF CONFERENCES

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION - MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF FORTY-SEVENTH CONFERENCE

July 26, 1950

The Conference convened at 2:00 p.m., with the following persons present:

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Gordon Dean
Sumner T. Pike
Thomas E. Murray

Carleton Shugg
Brig. Gen. James McCormack, Jr.
Colonel G. Schlatter
Walter J. Williams
Roy B. Snapp
Philip J. Farley

Lt. Gen. E. R. Quesada
(Representing JTF-3)

MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Robert LeBaron
Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Nichols
Brig. Gen. Herbert B. Loper
Rear Adm. Ralph A. Ofstie
Rear Adm. Tom B. Hill
Maj. Gen. Frank F. Everest
Brig. Gen. Roscoe C. Wilson

Brig. Gen. Alvin R. Luedecke
Capt. S. C. Strong, USN
Lt. Col. William Burke
Comdr. L. W. Rogers

1. Approval of Minutes

The Commission and the MLC have approved draft minutes of the 44th, and 45th meeting; and 46th meeting with words, "including commenting briefly on the Korean situation" added at the end of paragraph 1.

2. Continental Test Site and Operation GREENHOUSE

Mr. LeBaron advised the Commission of the recommendations of the JCS to the Secretary of Defense with respect to the conduct of Operation GREENHOUSE, the relationship of Operation GREENHOUSE to a continental test site and conduct of a joint survey for a continental test site for continued tests of atomic weapons. He also outlined the action of the Secretary of Defense on the JCS recommendations in this regard as well as the substance of the Secretary's discussion with the President.

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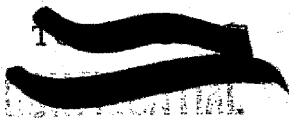
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Among others, the following aspects of the problem were discussed by the Commission and the MLC:

- a. Need for a test of a general magnitude and nature of GREENHOUSE in the Spring of 1951.
- b. Effect on the weapons and research program of cancellation or delay in the conduct of such a test.
- c. Implications of conduct of GREENHOUSE at Eniwetok on U. S. ability to support Korean operations.
- d. Effect of conduct of Operation GREENHOUSE at continental site on U. S. capability to support Korean operations.
- e. Technical feasibility of conduct of test at a continental site.
- f. Radiological hazards resulting from utilization of a continental test site.
- g. Logistics requirements for support of Operation GREENHOUSE at Eniwetok.
- h. Specific continental sites which might be available and suitable.
- i. Procedure to be utilized in advising the President of the need for conduct of Operation GREENHOUSE in the Spring of 1951 and the effect of cancellation on the weapons program.

It was agreed that the AEC would further consider the problem in light of the information brought out by the discussion. Mr. LeBaron suggested that it might be appropriate for the Commission to prepare a letter to the President with respect to the necessity for conduct of Operation GREENHOUSE and the importance of this test for the weapons program and the thermonuclear weapon program. The Commission reserved decision as to procedure that they might follow in any further consideration of the problem.



3. Proposed National Security Council Special Committee

A draft (AEC 348) of a proposed directive from the National Security Council to the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman, AEC, which had been circulated prior to the meeting was considered. The draft directive, if approved, would require preparation of a joint study of the scale and effort required to increase production of fissionable material during the immediate future and its relation to requirements for facilities and manpower under conditions of partial or full U. S. national mobilization.

After discussion it was agreed that preparation of such a study would be appropriate at this time and no objections were expressed to the draft directive as written.

4. Raw Materials

a. Future Allocations

The Commission informed the Committee that on 8 June 1950 they had transmitted a letter to the Secretary of State, as Chairman of the Combined Policy Committee, expressing their concern relative to the status of allocations of raw materials and pointing out that in the near future action was necessary to secure allocations on a longer term basis.

The recent request from the British Member of CPC for consideration of an interim allocation for 1950 of 505 tons of contained U₃O₈ was discussed. It was agreed that this matter should be a part of considerations of longer term allocations referred to above. Mr. LeBaron advised the Commission that he would inform Mr. Arneson of the Defense Department's views in this regard.

b. Protection of Shinkolobwe

Mr. Dean read a draft letter which had been prepared for transmission to the MLC concerning security of the Belgian Congo and pointed out the Commission's concern relative to the possibility that importation of ore from that source under emergency conditions might be denied unless some action was taken to find alternate means of transportation. Mr. Dean also read a letter which he proposed to transmit to Mr. Sengier (Union Miniere du Haut Katanga) which raised

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questions relative to steps which might be taken for security of the mine. Mr. Dean requested the letter be reviewed to determine the accuracy of the statements relative to action which had been taken by the Department of Defense.

ROY B. SNAPP
Secretary
Atomic Energy Commission

ALVIN R. LUEDECKE
Brig. Gen., USAF
Executive Secretary
Military Liaison Committee

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