

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

408446

MEETING NO. 1153

R

2:15 p.m., Tuesday, December 6, 1955

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
OR CHANGED TO *Confidential*  
BY AUTHORITY OF *Classification*  
BY *Tom Lynch* DATE *2-25-60*

Present

Lewis L. Strauss  
Thomas E. Murray  
W. F. Libby  
John von Neumann  
Harold S. Vance

K. E. Fields  
R. W. Cook  
William Mitchell

Harold D. Anamosa  
William L. Cakley

Also Present

J. L. Kelehan  
A. Tammaro  
Louis H. Roddis  
C. L. Marshall  
Col. Jack L. Armstrong  
Col. Carey L. O'Bryan  
Leonard M. Brenner  
Comdr. Harry Hahn  
Lt. Col. Raymond I. Schnittke  
T. H. Johnson  
Don S. Burrows  
John H. Burchard  
Richard G. Hewlett  
C. D. W. Thornton  
J. A. Waters

Edward R. Gardner  
Dr. Charles L. Dunham  
Morse Salisbury  
E. J. Bloch  
Charles W. Tully  
Stanton B. Keith  
John Mackenzie, Jr.  
Comdr. Charles E. Nelson  
Manuel Dupkin II  
Everett Holles  
Paul C. Fine  
Comdr. John W. Crawford  
George G. Manov  
James E. Ammons

- 1. AEC 99/24 - Role of Laboratories in AEC Program and  
AEC 99/25 - Draft Letter to Dr. N. E. Bradbury

The Commissioners indicated that they wished to speak to Dr. Bradbury when he was in Washington on December 15 and that consideration of a reply to his letter should be deferred.

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FOLDER Meetings 1123-1159

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three thermonuclear weapons by types, indicate they were different sizes and below a certain weight, and indicate that the smallest was below a certain diameter.

Mr. Libby said that if the recommended deletions were made, the DOD reports would not be useful enough to serve the DOD's purposes. Therefore, he said he believed it would be more practical to stand on the Commission's previous decision not to permit transmission of any information. Mr. Murray expressed his agreement with Mr. Libby on this point.

Mr. Murray said he believed that the DOD's desire to make U.K. aircraft compatible with U.S. thermonuclear weapons indicated that the DOD anticipated giving them weapons. Mr. von Neumann stated that he assumed the DOD proposal had been made in order that British airplanes might be used to deliver U.S. thermonuclear weapons in case of war. Mr. Murray replied that if this were so he believed the DOD should take steps to have the Atomic Energy Act amended in order to permit transfer of thermonuclear weapons in case of a war rather than attempting to do this by interpretation of the present law.

After further discussion, Mr. von Neumann proposed, and the other Commissioners agreed, that AEC 781/18 should be deferred until an evaluation of technical information on the recent U.S.S.R. tests had been received.

4. AEC 787/7 - Non-Technical Photography for REDWING

The Commission briefly discussed the recommended scope of the non-technical photography for Operation REDWING and Colonel Schnittke commented on the problem of producing a separate unclassified documentary motion picture for public release.

Mr. Murray said that the preparation of an unclassified motion picture would be an opportunity to present to the public a clear picture of the magnitude of a thermonuclear explosion, and he believed that the expense of producing such an unclassified motion picture of REDWING was certainly justified.

*Per author's return  
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After further discussion, the Commission:

a. Approved, as a minimum, a program of nontechnical motion picture photography for Operation REDWING consisting of the following:

(1) Classified historical record film footage of professional quality of the more important aspects of Operation REDWING, including coverage of the detonations and unique features of each shot. This would include such historical record photography as would be needed if a decision were later made to depict the history of the development of thermonuclear weapons.

(2) "Quickie" films, produced by LASL in 16 mm. black and white, for each shot of the test series.

b. Noted that Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN, has directed that a classified documentary motion picture ("Task Force Commander's Visual Report") be produced; and that this should provide a portion, though not all, of the requirement described in paragraph a.(1) above;

c. Requested submission of a report concerning preparation of an unclassified documentary motion picture of Operation REDWING;

d. Noted that appropriate still photography will be taken concurrently with the approved motion picture photography;

e. Noted that FCDA will be informed of the AEC's requirements for non-technical photography coverage after consideration of the report requested in c. above, and will be given an opportunity to state their requirements which cannot be met from AEC coverage; and

f. Noted that the Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN, and the MLC will be informed of the AEC's requirements by appropriate letters, after consideration of the report requested in c above.

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"1955 Review of the Report of Project EAST RIVER" which had inadvertently been released by the FCDA. He said that only one statement in the report was considered to be restricted data and added that he believed its release had not constituted an undue risk.

The Commission discussed at length the action to be taken since FCDA had technically violated the law.

Mr. Murray expressed concern that reference had been made to yields of fifty megatons in a report which had received such wide distribution, especially since the Commission had taken action in the past to limit such references to a lower figure. (See Minutes of Meeting 1120.)

After further discussion, the Commission:

a. Approved the declassification of the words "rated as high as twenty million tons of TNT destructive power" appearing on Page 3 of the "1955 Review of the Report East River."

b. Noted that the Federal Civil Defense Administration will be informed that Contingencies 1, 2, and 3, on page 12 of "1955 Review of the Report of Project East River," do not contain Restricted Data but may contain classified defense Information of primary importance to the Department of Defense.

c. Noted that a letter such as Appendix "D" to AEC 464/3, as revised, will be transmitted to the FCDA.

8. Executive Session\*

a. Senate Anti-Trust and Anti-Monopoly Subcommittee Hearing.

b. Nautilus Cruise.

c. Midwest Accelerator Program.

d. Press Release on Operation REDWING.

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\* Separate minutes and a separate transcript for this part of the meeting have been circulated.

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- e. Letter to Chairman, GAC.
- f. Brussels Reactor.
- g. Release of General Counsel's Opinion on the MVGC Contract.
- h. Senate Anti-Trust and Anti-Monopoly Subcommittee Hearing (continued - see item l above).
- i. Release on AEC Program for Scientific Training.
- j. Application of Presidential Directive to Bilateral Agreements.
- k. Press Release on U.S.S.R. Test.
- l. Announcement on ANP Program.

HAROLD D. ANAMOSA  
Acting Secretary

Approved by the Commission: April 11, 1956