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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 957

2:15 p.m., Wednesday, February 3, 1954

Present

Lewis L. Strauss
Henry D. Smyth
Thomas E. Murray
Eugene M. Zuckert

K. D. Nichols
William Mitchell

Roy B. Snapp
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

R. W. Cook
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Robert P. Petersen
James G. Beckerley
Dr. John C. Bugher
Morse Salisbury
George G. Manov
Don S. Burrows
McKay Donkin
Lyall E. Johnson
John H. Burchard
David P. Herron
Comdr. James M. Dunford
Gerard Smith
David S. Teeple
John Mackenzie, Jr.
J. Robert Barlow
George F. Trowbridge

REPOSITORY: NARA - College Park
COLLECTION: AEC MEETING MINUTES
BOX No.: 7, Vols 13-14 (1954)
FOLDER: Vol. 13, 1 of 2

1. Current Activities Reports

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The General Manager and Division Directors reported on current developments at field installations and on the progress of matters under study by the staff. Questions by the Commissioners were discussed.

DEPARTMENT: _____	DATE FOR REVIEW: _____
FILE NUMBER: <u>8-14-95</u>	CLASSIFICATION: _____
APPROVED BY: <u>D. HITTLE</u>	CLASSIFIED BY: _____
DATE REVIEWED: <u>8-16-95</u>	OTHER (SPECIFY): <u>PAGES 37-46</u>
AUTHORITY: _____	
NAME: <u>W. CHROBAK</u>	

INCLUDING PAGES 40a & 40b.

5. Policy for Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology

Mr. Zuckert said that, with reference to item 4, it appeared highly desirable to formulate a policy concerning the role which the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology would play in the industrial participation program. Mr. Petersen said that a paper proposing a policy for the School was in preparation. The Commissioners discussed with Mr. Petersen questions concerning the curriculum of the School.

At this point Messrs. Petersen and Burrows left the meeting.

6. Access of Government Officials and Members of Congress to Restricted Data

The Commissioners discussed at length with members of the staff questions concerning the present AEC system for granting Congressmen and government officials access to restricted data. The Chairman said that it appeared appropriate to make a thorough review of the system.

The Commission:

Requested the staff to review and report to the Commission concerning the policies and procedures for authorizing members of Congress and government officials to have access to restricted data.

At this point the staff left the meeting and the Commission discussed the following items in the presence of the General Manager and the Secretary only.

* * * * *

(Commission approval was not obtained for Sections 7 and 8 of these minutes. Consideration of these minutes was scheduled on the Agenda for meetings held on February 17, 1954, March 11, 1954, April 5, 8, 14, 23 and 27, 1954, and May 5 and 11, 1954. At Meeting 983 on May 11, 1956 the Commission approved these minutes with the exception of sections 7 and 8 on which the Commissioners did not reach agreement. In a

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memorandum dated July 5, 1956 * to Chairman Strauss, Mr. McCool proposed that alternate versions of these minutes be reproduced in order to conform with the various revisions suggested by the Commissioners. Mr. Strauss concurred with this procedure in a memornadum dated September 11, 1956.* Mr. McCool sent a similar memorandum dated September 17, 1956* to Mr. Murray but no reply was received prior to the expiration of Mr. Murray's term on June 30, 1957. Appropriate footnotes after Sections 7 and 8 indicate the individual Commissioners who suggested revisions to the sections as originally drafted by the Secretary.)

7. Possible Proposal for Limitation of Tests 1/

Mr. Murray distributed copies of a memorandum as a basis for discussion of a possible avenue of approach to atomic disarmament.** He said he wished to emphasize that he was raising the question for discussion and exploration only. In response to a question by the Chairman, Mr. Murray said he thought that implementation of the idea would not necessarily involve an immediate decision to postpone the CASTLE test series. If the Commission considered the approach had sufficient merit, it might be brought to the attention of the President with the thought that he designate a group to explore the subject. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Strauss said that, in his opinion, the proposal merited further study and that it should be brought to the attention of the President. He suggested that Mr. Murray prepare drafts of appropriate papers for that purpose.***

*Copies of these memoranda dated July 5, September 11, and September 17, 1956 are on file in the Office of the Secretary.

**A copy of Mr. Murray's memorandum has been attached to these minutes as Appendix "A".

***Mr. Murray subsequently advised that in accordance with this suggestion and after discussions with the Commission, the letter in Appendix "B" was dispatched to the President on February 5, 1954.

1/ This version of Section 7 was proposed by Mr. Murray.

*From Meeting
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7. Possible Proposal for Limitation of Tests 1/

Mr. Murray distributed copies of a memorandum as a basis for discussion of a possible avenue of approach to atomic disarmament.* He said he wished to emphasize that he was raising the question for discussion and exploration only. He himself was not sure that such an approach to the problem was feasible. In response to a question by the Chairman, Mr. Murray said he thought that any implementation of the idea by no means involved an immediate decision to postpone the CASTLE test series. If the Commission considered the approach had sufficient merit, it might be brought to the attention of the President with the thought that he designate a group to explore the subject. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Strauss said that, in his opinion, the proposal merited further study and that Mr. Murray should bring it to the attention of the President if he saw it fit to do so.**

8. Clearance Case 2/

The Chairman reported on the visit Messrs. Garrison and Marks had made to his office on February 1, The Commissioners then discussed various aspects of the pending clearance case, particularly with reference to the paragraph of the letter of December 23, 1953, regarding the thermonuclear program, and the possibility of eliminating that paragraph.***

With reference to the paragraph in question, Mr. Zuchert observed that although he had objected to the particular wording of this statement of derogatory information, the issue had been raised and once having been raised it must be resolved.

*A copy of Mr. Murray's memorandum has been attached to these minutes as Appendix "A".

**Mr. Murray subsequently advised that in accordance with this suggestion and after discussions with the Commission, the letter in Appendix "B" was dispatched to the President on February 5, 1954.

***This letter was circulated in turn to the Commissioners prior to Meeting 949 on December 23, 1953.

1/ This version of Section 7 was proposed by Chairman Strauss.

2/ This version of Section 8 was proposed by Commissioner Smyth. See also a memorandum concerning this matter dated May 20, 1954 from Mr. Smyth to the other Commissioners and attached to a memorandum dated September 30, 1954, from Mr. Smyth to Mr. McCool.

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Mr. Strauss said that he was under the clear impression that the letter had the concurrence of all the Commissioners before it was dispatched and he was greatly disturbed to learn that this apparently was not the case. Mr. Smyth pointed out that the letter had not been considered by the Commissioners as a group and that he had objected to the paragraph under discussion.

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With reference to the paragraph in question, Mr. Zuckert observed that although he had objected to the particular wording of this statement of derogatory information, the issue had been raised and once having been raised it must be resolved.

Mr. Strauss said that he was under the clear impression that the letter had the concurrence of all the Commissioners before it was dispatched and he was disturbed to learn that this apparently was not the case. Mr. Smyth pointed out that the letter had not been considered by the Commissioners in a regular meeting and that he objected to the paragraph under discussion.

1/ This version of Section 8 was proposed by Chairman Strauss.

*This letter was circulated in turn to the Commissioners prior to Meeting . 949 on December 23, 1953.

*From MacBry
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