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January 29, 1957

AEC 764/36

COPY NO. 1

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

RELEASE OF RESTRICTED DATA INFORMATION ON U.K. TESTS  
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Note by the Secretary

The attached letter from the Chairman, MLC, with enclosure, is circulated for the information of the Commission by request of the General Manager. The attachment has been referred to the Division of Military Application.

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W. B. McCool  
Secretary

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This document consists of 4 pages

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE  
P. O. BOX 1814  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

20087

January 22, 1957

Dear Mr. Strauss:

Inclosed is memorandum from the Chief, AFOAT-1, Office for Atomic Energy, DCS/O, U. S. Air Force, concerning the release to the United Kingdom of Restricted Data information to be derived from the United Kingdom atomic weapon trials scheduled for the spring 1957. The information which relates to design or fabrication of atomic weapons as covered in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the attached memorandum has not been jointly determined by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense to be releasable pursuant to Section 144b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

The Restricted Data information proposed for release does clearly fall within the scope of the items listed in the Intelligence Supplement of the Atomic Information Exchange Guide. The Department of Defense, in accordance with provisions of Section 144b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, determined on 25 September that the transmission of information relating to design or fabrication of atomic weapons as covered in the Intelligence Supplement, then referred to as Intelligence Annex to the Joint AEC-DOD Information Exchange Guide, would not reveal important information concerning the design or fabrication of the nuclear components of an atomic weapon. The Atomic Energy Commission was requested to join with the Department of Defense in this determination in letter to you from Major General John S. Mills on 26 September 1956. Therefore, the Department of Defense has made the required determination in accordance with Section 144b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 for the release of the Restricted Data information covered in the attached memorandum.

Early action by the Atomic Energy Commission on the Atomic Information Exchange Guide as requested in my letter to you on 19 December is highly desirable. However, to proceed with plans discussed in the attached memorandum, either the determination requested in letter to you of 26 September, mentioned above or separate action on the information covered in the attached memorandum is required as a matter of priority. The former determination would be more beneficial.

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It is requested that the Commission join with the Department of Defense in the determination as set forth in letter to you of 26 September 1956 or that the information relating to design or fabrication of atomic weapons as covered in paragraphs 3 and 4 in the attached memorandum, will not reveal important information concerning the design or fabrication of the nuclear components of an atomic weapon.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Herbert B. Loper

Herbert B. Loper  
Chairman

1 Inclosure  
As indicated

Honorable Lewis L. Strauss  
Chairman  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

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January 11, 1957

AFOAT-1/SWTD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: (~~SECRET~~) Exchange of Information with the British  
in Connection with its Megaton Weapons Trials  
Scheduled for the Spring of 1957

1. This office has a requirement to obtain the maximum amount of information on the U.K. megaton weapons scheduled to be tested in the spring of 1957. In order to have the best chance of meeting this requirement, AFOAT-1 is in the process of exploring with the U.K. Task Force the possibility of obtaining certain important information and assistance which would greatly enhance the possibility of a successful operation.

2. The information required from the U.K. is in part of the following type:

- a. time schedules for shots,
- b. location of ground zero,
- c. location of restricted areas,
- d. actual timing signals during the bomb run, etc.

The assistance required from the British is in part:

- a. approval to operate a measurement station on an island in the vicinity of the restricted area,
- b. scheduling of flights of U.S. sampling aircraft in and near the vicinity of the restricted area, etc.

3. In return it is anticipated that the British may request copies of seismic, acoustic and electromagnetic recordings obtained on the British megaton shots, as well as permission to visit the station where these measurements are made. As you know the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 controls information concerning atomic energy programs of other nations, except such information as may be removed from the Restricted Data category by the joint determination of the AEC and the Director of Central Intelligence under Section 142e. In the case of data on U.K. nuclear tests no action under Section 142e has been taken. Data on such tests including seismographic, acoustic and electromagnetic records, therefore, are Restricted Data.

4. AFOAT-1 proposes to give the U.K. copies of the recordings obtained on the U.K. weapons trials in the spring of 1957 as well as additional information concerning the equipment on which this data was obtained. Furthermore, AFOAT-1 wishes to invite British technicians in the area to visit field stations where the seismic, electromagnetic and acoustic data are recorded. AFOAT-1 does not propose to give the U.K. the

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By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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numerical results of debris analysis since the U.K. has stated that it will not be able to provide samples of radioactive debris from these trials as was done in the case of the 1956 trials in Australia.

5. The proposed exchange of information will permit acquisition by the U.S. of important information relating to design and fabrication of U.K. nuclear weapons. AFOAT-1 believes that the proposed exchange of information would not reveal important information or, in fact, any information concerning the design or fabrication of the nuclear components of U.S. atomic weapons and, therefore, considers that the information is transmissible under Section 144b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

6. It is respectfully requested that action be taken to secure a joint AEC/DOD determination concerning the transmissibility of the information specified in paragraph 3 above in accordance with the terms of Section 144b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

D. E. HOOKS  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Chief, AFOAT-1  
Office for Atomic Energy, DCS/O

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