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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

BOX No. 189 (NN3-326-93-010)

FOLDER 02M6 Agenda
Planning Session

409203

January 11, 1956

*04/21/95
WChricht
4/26/95
WRSchmitt*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSIONERS AND GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: AGENDA PLANNING SESSION, 11:00 A.M., FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1956

At 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 6, 1956, the Agenda Planning Session was held in the Chairman's Office. Those present were:

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

K. E. Fields
William Mitchell
Edwin E. Ferguson

W. B. McCool
William L. Oakley

Manuel Dupkin

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DATE 04/21/95 BY WRSchmitt

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Since no formal business was done at this session, no Minutes will be written.

The following is a report of the subjects discussed:

1. News Service Report on Operation REDWING

Mr. Strauss read a news wire service report concerning Operation REDWING and observed that, as he had feared, this information had been disclosed before AEC had been able to issue a press release (see minutes

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of Executive Session of Meeting 1161). Mr. Libby observed that some information on Operation REDWING had already appeared in the December issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

2. Nuclear Powered Merchant Ship

Mr. Strauss referred to his report at Meeting 1161 on a meeting he had attended with Messrs. Hughes, Wilson and Weeks on the President's proposal for a nuclear propelled merchant ship. He said that Mr. Hughes had since informed him that the ship for which funds were requested in AEC's FY 1957 budget would be the only ship for which funds would be requested, and that the Department of Commerce proposal for a nuclear propelled tanker would not be submitted to Congress.

3. Agenda

The Commissioners discussed at length items proposed for consideration during the week of January 9, 1956. With regard to the presentation of an outline of the Cinerama motion picture, Mr. Strauss requested that a letter be sent to Cinerama stating the Commission's understanding that AEC would not be referred to as having sponsored or endorsed this motion picture.

It was agreed that the Executive Session scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, would not be held unless the Commissioners or General Manager had suggested items for consideration by the afternoon of January 9.

With regard to the staff paper on exchange of information with the UK concerning weapons tests, Mr. Strauss asked Mr. Mitchell to consider whether it was contrary to the Atomic Energy Act to provide information to

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the UK on the geographic location from which to obtain radioactive filter samples of test operations.

Mr. Strauss said he had again spoken to Mr. McMillan and had informed him of the Commission's position that AEC would not request the attendance of U.S.S.R. scientists at the Rochester Conference, but that AEC would not object to their attendance. (See minutes of Meeting 1161.) He added that in response to a question by Mr. McMillan, he had informed him that this did not seem a matter for consideration at the forthcoming GAC meeting since the State Department established U. S. policy on visits to the U. S. by U.S.S.R. citizens. Mr. Fields reported that Mr. Traynor had spoken to Mr. Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State (Atomic Energy) and that it appeared that the Department of State may simply wish the AEC to state that the conference would be unclassified. Mr. Strauss said that AEC could not make such a statement since it was not sponsoring the conference and did not know what subjects might be discussed. Mr. Libby pointed out that we could inform the Department of State that it was AEC's understanding that the subject matter of the conference is unclassified. He added that if persons at the conference discuss restricted data they would be in violation of the Atomic Energy Act. Mr. Fields said that he believed informing the Department of State that the subject matter of the conference would be unclassified, would commit the Commission to a lesser degree than stating that AEC had no objection to attendance of U.S.S.R. scientists. Mr. Mitchell said that he agreed that it would be more desirable to inform the State Department that the Conference would deal with unclassified subjects. Mr. Libby suggested that the Department of State be informed that the Conference's agenda was unclassified.

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Mr. Strauss agreed with this suggestion and added that the Department of State should also be informed that they should consider U.S.S.R. scientists in the same category as any other Russian citizen wishing to visit the U. S. Mr. Libby said that he would have circulated information on the attendance at this conference.

Mr. Fields reported that he would meet with members of the staff later in the day to discuss the letter which had been received from Mr. Webster of Yankee Atomic Electric Company clarifying the Company's testimony at the SEC hearings on their PDRP proposal. However, he said that he did not believe that he would be able to submit recommendations to the Commission in time for consideration at the Commission meeting on Wednesday, January 11.

Mr. Libby said that he had been informed that Congressman Hinshaw, a member of the JCAE, had expressed interest in the third reactor approach on the ANP program. He added that he assumed that hearings might be held on this subject.

Mr. McCool inquired whether the Commissioners would be able to attend a meeting on Monday, January 16 with Mr. Stassen on the disarmament report he intended to present to the NSC before the visit of the British Prime Minister. (See minutes of Meeting 1161.) Mr. Strauss observed that the AEC staff's comments on this report should be available to the Commission before this meeting.*

Mr. Libby informed the other Commissioners that he would circulate a paper on his suggestions for a U. S. position with respect to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to foreign power reactors.

*Later in the day the Commissioners decided that it would not be necessary to meet with Mr. Stassen on January 16.

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Mr. Fields reported that General Starbird would speak to Mr. Bradbury concerning a replacement, for Mr. Graves who had suffered a heart attack and would not be able to serve as Test Director at Operation REDWING. Mr. Strauss said that from the report he had received, Mr. Graves' condition had apparently improved.

Mr. Strauss said that he had spoken to Mrs. von Neumann who had informed him that Mr. von Neumann was encouraged by reports on his condition. He added that she had also informed him that during their absence from Washington, their house had been broken into although nothing had been stolen. He added that although Mr. von Neumann had not had any classified papers in the house, the Division of Security had made an investigation. Mr. Murray suggested that the FBI be notified of this incident.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

cc: General Counsel

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