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

411553

January 4, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN LEWIS L. STRAUSS

Dear Lewis:

SUBJECT: U. N. Observers at Operation TEAPOT

You will recall that in a memorandum to you dated October 12, 1953, I recommended that U. N. observers be invited to witness a test shot in connection with Operation CASTLE. I continued to urge an uncleared observer program in subsequent memoranda. You are also familiar with my letter to The President on this subject.

Operation TEAPOT presents us with a new opportunity for an uncleared observer program. I recommend that such a program be approved and specifically that U. N. observers be invited.

The arguments in favor of such a course remain compelling. It is remotely possible, though unlikely, that the Soviets would counter with a similar invitation. Certainly this would be welcomed as the preliminary to any negotiations looking to possible eventual curtailment of the weapons race. In any event a considerable propaganda advantage would accrue to the United States.

As you know, approval is now being sought for observers at TEAPOT from Canada and the NATO organization. With adequate safeguards, I am generally in favor of granting such approval. At the same time, according such permission without providing for U. N. representation would, in my opinion, be a grave mistake.

I trust that the Commission will approve the Canadian and NATO observers and will also provide for U. N. representation, all, of course, with adequate safeguards.

T.E.M.
Thomas E. Murray
Commissioner

cc: Dr. Libby
K. D. Nichols
W. B. McCool

RE: UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION
Division Doc History Division
#1299
#35 Memorandum to
file of Charles Murphy

see memo. to Gen. Mgr. dated 1/5/55