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

408604

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May 16, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSIONERS AND GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: NOTES ON INFORMAL MEETING, 2:15 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1956

At 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 1956, an informal meeting was held in Room 213. Those present were:

W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance

R. W. Cook
William Mitchell

W. B. McCool
William L. Oakley

A. Tammaro
Harry S. Traynor
Frank B. Quackenboss
Allen V. Butterworth
Edward R. Gardner
Raymond R. Edwards
Jesse C. Johnson
William K. Maher
W. Kenneth Davis
Harold L. Price
Frank K. Pittman
T. H. Johnson
Dr. Charles L. Dunham
Oscar S. Smith
J. A. Waters
Walker E. Campbell
Richard G. Hewlett
Charles R. Campbell
Morse Salisbury
Curtis A. Nelson
Manuel Dupkin II
Richard J. Hallinan
William J. Hughes
Ruth Thomas

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FIRST REVIEWED BY 04/21/95
AUTHORITY W. Chubb
DATE 6-28-95
AUTHOR R.R.O.

(Since a quorum of the Commission was not present and no formal Commission business was done, minutes will not be prepared for this meeting. Page numbers after each item refer to the transcript of the meeting.)

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The following subjects were discussed:

1. Executive Session*

- a. 1956 Fermi Award
- b. Cabinet Meeting on Mobilization "C" Plan
- c. Discussion with Chancellor Kimpton
- d. Discussion with Senator Thye
- e. Discussion with Midwestern Universities Research Association
- f. General Manager's Monthly Report
 - (1) Production
 - (2) Military Application
 - (3) Intelligence

2. General Manager's Monthly Report (Continued)

a. Operations Analysis (pp. 2-5)

Mr. Quackenboss commented on a study of the cost consequences of reduced future demands for U-235. He said two conclusions had been drawn from the assumptions made in preparing the study: that the military program provides the most important basis for the ore procurement program, and that the uncertainties of assumptions of long-range demands for U-235 require the government to absorb a substantial risk. Mr. Libby remarked that even if there were no military demand, it would still be necessary to buy ore to operate the gaseous diffusion plants. He added that in this case it would be necessary to stockpile U-235.

*A separate memorandum and a separate transcript for this part of the Meeting have been circulated.

b. International Affairs (pp. 5-11)

Mr. Gardner reported that Belgium had requested amendment of their bilateral agreement to provide for exchange of additional information on fuel fabrication and reprocessing. Mr. Libby suggested that the staff consider whether it would be necessary to amend the agreement, since this information might soon be declassified. Mr. Gardner also said that 6,000 pounds of UF₆ enriched from four to five percent was the latest estimate of fuel material required for the Brussel's Fair reactor.

Mr. Gardner reported that the Australians, after review of a new draft bilateral agreement, still wanted an agreement similar to those with Canada and the U. K. Mr. Libby said he believed that information being considered for exchange with the U. K. should not be transmitted to Australia.

Mr. Gardner then reported that the President had approved the allocation of FY 1956 funds for financial assistance to foreign research reactor programs, and added that funds for the Brazilian and Spanish reactors are expected to be available shortly.

Mr. Gardner also said the proposed IAEA statute had been approved by the twelve-nation conference, and that a Soviet scientist would speak at Harwell on controlled thermonuclear reaction research in the U.S.S.R.

c. Raw Materials (pp. 11-13)

The Commissioners had no question on the raw materials monthly report. With regard to a report on the U. K. purchase of Australian ore, Mr. Johnson observed that British capital will

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eventually have control of a large part of the world uranium production outside of the United States. During a discussion of how this U. K. control affects CDA functions, Mr. Johnson pointed out that unilateral contracts did not affect CDA functions, but that CDA production is allocated on the basis of need, giving major consideration to defense requirements.

d. Construction and Supply (pp. 13-18)

Mr. Maher reported that because of increases in cost estimates and in accordance with the instructions of the OROO Manager, a new estimate for the St. Louis feed materials project will be presented by the contractor at a coordination meeting early in May. However, Mr. Cook pointed out that a re-analysis indicates the possibility that the funds now available may be sufficient.

Mr. Maher also reported on other matters of interest in the construction and supply program.

e. Reactor Development (pp. 18-24)

Mr. Davis commented on the mechanical design difficulties of the Los Alamos Power Reactor Experiment. He also reviewed the EBR 1 accident, and explained that the reactor had not been operating under normal conditions because some of the safety circuits had been shut down in order to conduct a series of experiments.

In answer to a question by Mr. Libby, Mr. Davis said the Sea Wolf would be launched sometime in the summer.

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f. Civilian Application (pp. 24-25)

Mr. Price briefly reviewed the status of the Commonwealth Edison and the Consolidated Edison applications for power reactor construction permits. He also said that the construction schedule for the Ford Company's proposed educational demonstration reactor has been delayed several months.

Mr. Libby requested that information on the isotope program be included in future monthly reports.

g. Research (pp. 26-32)

Mr. Johnson reported on the progress of anti-proton experiments based on Mr. Teller's theory, and then gave a brief review of other research matters. Mr. Libby remarked that discovery of the anti-proton and Mr. Teller's resulting theory, which could lead to better understanding of nuclear forces, demonstrated the desirability of a vigorous accelerator program.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the arrangements for the attendance of ten or twelve scientists at conferences in U.S.S.R. and briefly reported on the Rochester Conference on high energy physics.

h. Biology and Medicine (pp. 32-38)

Dr. Dunham briefly reviewed the medical re-survey of the health status of the Rongelap natives and said no medical conditions related to radiation effects had been observed. He added that a study of cataracts is being made, although it is not expected there will be any resulting from radiation. He also explained that unrest among these natives had resulted from inactivity and social tension between them and other groups.

[REDACTED]

Dr. Dunham then commented on the increase from \$1600 to \$2500 a year in the stipend of the radiological physics fellowships.

Dr. Dunham also informed the Commissioners of the contracts with the Medical School of Harvard University, the Department of Education of Duke University and the University of New Mexico for a summer high school teacher training course at each institution. The National Science Foundation will pay the expenses of the teachers attending, and AEC will pay for the cost of the course and the materials.

i. Organization and Personnel (pp. 38-41)

Mr. Smith reviewed the issues involved in the strike at Hanford. He pointed out that only minor maintenance and repair work have so far been affected.

Mr. Libby requested a study of what salary the average high school science teacher could earn in industry, and a comparison of the wage of the average U. S. high school science teacher with that of foreign high school science teachers.

j. Security (pp. 42-46)

Mr. Waters briefly discussed security matters and informed the Commission that consideration was being given to mechanizing the central personnel clearance index in order to curtail reporting demands on the field offices and to provide better service.

Mr. Waters reported that a special subcommittee on Government Information might hold hearings on the compromise of

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classified information on the ANP program in the McKinney Panel Report. He said that detailed investigations have already been made of the matter by the Maritime Commission and the Division of Security. (See AEC 868/5.)

k. Finance (pp. 46-48)

Mr. Campbell reviewed current AEC financial matters.

l. Information Services (pp. 48-54)

With reference to Operation REDWING, Mr. Salisbury reported on public media coverage of the open shot and on preparation of briefing material for news media representatives.

Mr. Libby commented on the draft of the second edition of the Weapons Effect Handbook, and on his letter to General Luedecke requesting the addition in the Handbook of data on Project SUNSHINE.

Mr. Libby said he believed the program for translating Russian scientific documents was very important. Mr. Salisbury remarked that the possibility of coordinating U. S. efforts in this field with the British would be discussed with them.

m. Inspection (pp. 54-55)

Mr. Nelson briefly reported on the status of the review of the inspection and appraisal functions of the Washington Divisions and of the Operations Offices. He also commented on the inspection of those licensees having special nuclear material or building and operating reactors. He added that the States are assisting in the latter inspections.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

cc: General Counsel

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