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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 16, 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Gerard C. Smith
Department of State

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

By memorandum to Chairman Strauss dated July 22, 1954, you made a series of comments on the prospectus prepared by Dr. Rabi for the proposed international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The Commissioners and the staff have studied your memorandum and subsequently, as you are aware, Mr. Strauss, Dr. Rabi, Mr. Snapp, yourself and I held a discussion on this subject. For the sake of the record, it would seem worthwhile to summarize the views taken by the participants in these various discussions.

Location

Generally speaking, the Commissioners felt that the decision on the location of the conference was one to be made by the Department of State. They noted your conclusion that it should be in the U. S. but raised some doubts concerning the possibility of getting certain foreign scientists to this country in view of the McCarran Act. As you recall in our discussions with Mr. Strauss and Dr. Rabi, it was agreed that in view of the recommendation of the Department of State, the conference should be held in the U. S.

Sponsorship

As a consequence of our various discussions, it was generally agreed that while the U. S. should propose a conference, the conference as such should be held under the auspices of the United Nations.

Should the Conference be Official or Unofficial

It was generally agreed that the conference should be an official conference, but it was also felt that the various National Academies of Science would undoubtedly be willing to assist in any way suggested.

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New Declassified Information

The Commission will endeavor to make available for the purpose of the conference additional declassified information.

Time Schedule

It was felt that January 1955 made the time schedule a little too tight but the more important point was to assure that all necessary actions were being taken in order to get the conference started.

Purpose of the Conference

The conference should have a broad agenda covering every aspect of atomic energy activity for peaceful purposes which would be of mutual interest to all participants. It was agreed, however, if the amendments to the Atomic Energy Act are passed, that the conference would gain additional interest for the participants.

Relationship of the International Pool to the Conference

It was felt that the conference should not be used as a debating forum for the international pool proposed by the President. However, the conference could be used to generate ideas and to continue the interest of various countries in supporting an international agency which would be responsible for an international pool.

John A. Hall