

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Alfonso Tammoro, Assistant General Manager
for Research & Industrial Development

DATE: APR 16 1954

FROM : Robert Lowenstein, Attorney *RLW*
Office of the General Counsel

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SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE ORDER ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
BY AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT"

Pursuant to your request we have reviewed the above entitled Executive Order with respect to the matters, if any, as to which it requires the AEC to take some affirmative action. A copy of the Executive Order is attached hereto.

The first five sections, and, in effect, the seventh section, of the Executive Order impose affirmative responsibilities upon the National Science Foundation regarding the establishment of Federal policies as to scientific research, the conduct of studies and recommendations regarding Federal research, review of scientific research programs of other Federal agencies, etc. Although these sections require agencies to cooperate with the Foundation, initial responsibility for carrying out their provisions is imposed upon the Foundation.

Section 6(a) requires the head of each Federal agency to make certain that effective practices exist to insure "that the Foundation is consulted on policies concerning the support of basic research."

It would seem that under this paragraph AEC should advise the Foundation when any substantial change in our policies concerning support of basic research is to be instituted.

It would appear that AEC practices and procedures are presently calculated to assure accomplishment of the objectives set out in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of Section 6.

Section 8 relates to the efficient use of scientific research equipment facilities. It directs the head of each Federal agency engaged in scientific research to encourage the sharing with other federal agencies of major equipment and facilities and to procure new major equipment or facilities for scientific research only after taking adequate steps to ascertain that the need cannot be adequately met from existing inventory or facilities of its own or other agencies.

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AEC has in effect procedures calculated to insure that before new major equipment or facilities for research are procured, lists of excess property prepared by other agencies be reviewed. AEC also distributes such lists of its own excess property and facilities. Although formal procedures do not presently exist with respect to "sharing" of major equipment and facilities, AEC has frequently in the past made arrangements with other agencies whereby its facilities, or the facilities of other agencies, have been made available for use by the other. It would appear that the first initiative with respect to the establishment of more formal procedures for such sharing will come from the "InterDepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development" which is directed in Section 8(c) to "take necessary steps to ensure that each Federal agency is kept informed of selected major equipment and facilities which could serve the needs of more than one agency".

Accordingly, it does not appear that the Executive Order requires AEC at this time to institute any new or different practices than it has heretofore observed, except that we should "consult" with the National Science Foundation concerning any new policies with respect to the support of basic research.

Enclosure:
Executive Order 10521.