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

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October 19, 1954



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard Hirsch, Executive Secretary
Operations Coordinating Board

FROM: Morse Salisbury, Director
Division of Information Services, AEC

Morse Salisbury

SUBJECT: Material for Status Report of the Working Group on
Nuclear Energy and Related Matters

This listing of actions taken and matter issued is compiled on the assumption that the OCB desires to review the record of the year up to now, not simply the record of the time since the organization of the Working Group. The major actions taken by AEC in accordance with general lines of policy respecting the climate of opinion in the world, and to plans for specific projects are as follows:

1. Analysis of the Proposal to Establish in West Berlin the First Reactor Built under the President's Proposals in his UNGA Speech of December 8, 1953:

Such an analysis was requested under date of March 31, 1954. The analysis was supplied on July 1, 1954, along with a notation that a more extensive study by the AEC staff of the general considerations involved in establishing power reactors abroad had been supplied to the NSC through the Planning Board. (Note to Hirsch: I've not tried to brief down our conclusions, feeling that you would choose from the letter what points you wanted to include.)

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Authority	MR 89-179-2
By	8/25/89
NLE Date	

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2. Report on AEC Proposals for Implementing NSC 5431/1:

This report was made orally to the OCB by Chairman Strauss of the AEC and later circulated in briefed-down form to the members of the Working Group (Note to Hirsch: I have not looked up the exact reference which will appear in your records rather than ours; nor have I chosen parts of your information memorandum for inclusion here. I'm assuming that all that is desired is a reference to the memorandum.)

3. Aid to State Department and Ambassador to Japan in Handling the Public Reporting on the Furukuru Maru Incident:

Specific statements on the low degree of danger of continuing contaminating Pacific currents and fish life by fallout and on the action taken by the Food and Drug Administration of the United States with respect to monitoring tuna and shark received at West Coast ports were provided; consultation on the facts of the situation as known in Washington was given the working groups supplying policy and fact guidance for public reporting in Japan by the Embassy.

4. Coordination of Certain Announcements on Weapons Test Activities:

The AEC requested and received OCB coordination of three announcements on weapons test activities -- (a) Announcement on May 13 of the conclusion of the Pacific test series; *July - radioactive fell out in the* (b) Announcement on September 25 that the Nevada Proving Ground was being put in readiness for a series of tests in late winter 1955; (c) Response to inquiry in mid-October on establishment at Pearl Harbor, T.H. of a small forward group of Joint Task Force 7.

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5. AEC Participation in Events Which Influenced the Climate of Opinion on Nuclear Energy Matters:

a. Through papers given by more than 40 AEC staff members, consultants and contractor employees, at the Nuclear Engineering Conference at the University of Michigan in late June, technical knowledge in this field was conveyed to more than 50 representatives of other nations attending the conference and through the press and periodical coverage, and the publication of the proceedings to the technical community throughout the world.

b. Participation of more than a score of AEC Commissioners and staff members, consultants and contractors in the National Industrial Conference Board's annual meeting on peace-time uses of atomic energy in mid-October had a like effect.

c. AEC staff members played the leading role in the public discussion of the progress to be expected in development of peacetime applications of atomic energy at a meeting on September 28 sponsored by the Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc.

d. The AEC arranged for representatives of all media a photographic and press tour of the unclassified portions of the Materials Testing Reactor at the National Reactor Testing Station on August 12 and 20.

e. AEC and contractor staff members provided the testimony at hearings of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy bringing up to date public knowledge of medical and agricultural applications of atomic energy in early and midsummer. Through the publication of the transcripts of these hearings a wealth of material on peacetime uses foreshadowing the benefits of the President's proposals for international cooperation in the field was made public and sent around the world by the efforts of the USIA.

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f. A comprehensive analysis by the AEC staff of the future prospects for nuclear power at home and abroad was entered in the record of the Joint Committee's hearings on amending the Atomic Energy Act and has been widely used in public reporting materials.

g. AEC staff handled the network arrangements and Commissioners and staff gave aid in drafting the addresses for the historic occasion on September 6 of breaking ground for the first commercial full-scale atomic power plant at Shippingport, Pa.

h. AEC Commissioners and staff and special consultants aided the Department of State with the preliminary steps for the international science congress on atomic energy which was first announced by the AEC Chairman in an April speech.

6. Public Issuances by AEC:

In its issuance of press matter and aid to correspondents and commentators and in speeches by Commissioners and senior officers, the AEC kept foremost throughout the year reporting and commenting on peacetime atomic energy applications and on the prospective gains for human welfare when the President's proposals for an international atomic energy agency should become realities.

A listing of the speeches and releases can be provided if this much detail is desired.

7. Cooperation with USIA

The subject matter made available by the AEC through these means found its most effective use through the American news services to the media of the world and in the USIA special presentations not only as news but as

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motion pictures, books and pamphlets, and exhibits. To give such aid as was within the competence of AEC, the entire public information staff gave first priority to consulting with USIA media and policy officers, generating ideas for exploitation, and giving guidance on accuracy of USIA reporting materials. In one way or another the AEC staff played a part in nearly every item of the extensive USIA dissemination of material on peacetime uses which has been enumerated in the bi-weekly summaries and summed up in this status report. At mid-October, at a meeting between the AEC information staff and senior officers of the USIA, including Director Streibert and Deputy Director Washburn, the entire situation of reporting on peacetime uses in relation to the International Atomic Energy Agency was reviewed, and arrangements made for a weekly or more frequent liaison meeting to speed the work of exploiting peacetime uses of atomic energy in all forms of public reporting.

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