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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

October 25, 1954

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE OCB
ON NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECTS AND RELATED INFORMATION PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING NSC 5431/1)
FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 10-OCTOBER 15, 1954,
AS REQUIRED BY TERMS OF REFERENCE DATED MAY 12, 1954.



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SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS TAKEN

1. In response to the terms of reference dated May 12, 1954 (Secret), the OCB Working Group on Nuclear Energy Projects and Related Information Programs /a watching brief on non-governmental actions and programs in the nuclear energy field which were capable of significantly influencing overseas climate of opinion, and formulated advice to the Board with respect to the timing and method of handling thereof, particularly in relation to the schedule of other projected governmental actions. These included:

- (a) The announcement of the conclusion of the Pacific Nuclear Weapons Test Series, "Operation Castle", May 13, 1954.
- (b) FCDA-ODM Information Program for the June 14-15 Nationwide Civil Defense Exercise (Confidential), May 25, 1954.
- (c) AEC announcement of recent radioactive fall-out on the United States July 7, 1954.
- (d) Announcement of readying Nevada Proving Ground for a series of tests in late winter 1955 - September 25, 1954.
- (e) Announcement of the establishment of a small staff section of Joint Task Force Seven - October 15, 1954.

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E.O. 12356, SEC 3.4(b)
Agency Case <u>NSC 5431/1</u>
NLE Case <u>89-198-04</u>
By <u>RS</u> NLE Date <u>7/11/54</u>

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FOLDER OCB 000.9, Atomic Energy, File #2, (4), September 1954 - February 1955

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2. As directed by the Board, the Working Group developed draft guidelines for a major domestic address by the President of the United States on the subject "The United States in the Nuclear Age". Significant portions of this draft were utilized by the President in his Labor Day Speech in connection with the ground-breaking ceremonies for the first commercially-sponsored nuclear electric power plant at Shipping Port, Pennsylvania. Other significant reactions, principally those dealing with problems of nuclear disarmament, were utilized in speeches by members of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations.

3. On a limited basis, liaison was continued with the departmental and agency domestic information officers who were concerned with the implementation of the peaceful application of nuclear energy outlined in the President's December 8th speech. The Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor and Health and Welfare evinced the most interest in this program, and continued to utilize significant opportunities to develop public statements and events which could be cross-reported in USIA's overseas output.

4. Liaison with Non-Governmental Groups. At the suggestion of the United States Information Agency, the Atomic Industrial Forum is sponsoring a conference of representatives of national organizations (e.g., Rotary, AF of L) in New York on December 8, first anniversary of the President's speech to the United Nations. At a preliminary meeting on September 14 with the Forum, AEC and six participating organizations, the U.S. Information Agency was asked to see if the President would make the keynote address.



The U.S. Information Agency's program of liaison with professional groups bore fruit during this period with the passage by three international organizations of resolutions supporting President Eisenhower's atomic energy proposals. These were the International Council of Women, (Helsinki-June), the Congress of Medical Women's International Associations (Lake Garda, Italy-September), and the British Cooperatives Guild Congress (Brighton, England-May).

The United States Information Agency has explored "ways and means of establishing awards for outstanding contributions to non-military applications of atomic energy", pursuant to point 7(c) of "Recommended Implementing Actions" of the OCB paper of March 15, 1954. The Atomic Industrial Forum is enthusiastically willing to sponsor such awards but lacks funds. Several philanthropic foundations have been contacted, so far without success. Explorations are continuing.

5. Implementation of the OCB-approved "program to exploit the A-Bank proposals of the President's UN speech of December 8, 1953", dated March 15, 1954, was continued during the period under review, particularly by AEC action and USIA cross-reporting in connection with a continuing series of public events, including an International Nuclear Engineering Conference in June 1954; press and photographic views of unclassified portions of the National Reactor Testing Station, August 17 and 20; AEC staff participation in public discussion of peacetime application of nuclear energy, at various conferences of the Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc., and the National Industrial Conference Board.

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6. Radio. On the Voice of America the subject has been given consistent attention above all others. It has been useful both as the major positive program with automatic appeal, and also as a counterbalance to negative reactions abroad, such as protests against U.S. A- and H-bomb testing.

7. Press and Publications. Since July 1 the U.S. Information Agency's press service has maintained Atoms for Peace as its top priority subject, as in the preceding six months. The daily wireless file, transmitted by radio to agency offices overseas for placement in the foreign press, has carried a total of 91 news items during this period.

8. Motion Pictures. A series of three 20-minute special films are in production. The first, tentatively titled "Consecrated to Life", serves as an introduction to the series, pointing up the President's atomic pool plan. The second film is described by its title "Atomic Energy in Medicine", and the third, titled "Atomic Energy Works for Peace", deals with applications in industry and agriculture.

Already in use is a previously produced color film, now accompanying the mobile exhibit touring Italy.

9. Information Centers. Three atoms for peace exhibits are now showing:

São Paulo - Opened August 21, runs until early 1955; Germany - Opened September 25 at Berlin Fair, tours Germany after Fair closes; Italy - Opened in Rome on June 15, now touring 18 cities in Italy.

Three more exhibits are in preparation:



Belgium - Opens November 23; will tour Belgium for nine weeks, then planned for Netherlands and UK; South Asia - Opening planned for New Delhi early in 1955, then will tour India and East Pakistan; Middle East - Opening planned for Karachi early 1955; will tour Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and possibly Greece and Iran.

Aside from these large special shows, an exhibit composed of 27 large color panels will be sent in quantity to all agency information centers during November.

10. Books. Fifteen foreign-language editions of Gordon Dean's "Report on the Atom" are in process of publication. The Burmese edition was published in September 1954.

11. Implementation of NSC 5431/1. Responsible officers of both the Department of State and the Atomic Energy Commission who are specifically charged with the implementation of NSC 5431/1, "Cooperation with Other Nations in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy", dated August 13, 1954, have kept the Working Group informed of the progress of implementation of the specific courses of action, and have sought the advice of the Working Group with respect to ways and means of ensuring that maximum psychological advantage accrues to the United States from proposed actions in this field, particularly with respect to

(a) The organization of the International Scientific Conference (para. 5a - NSC 5431/1).

(b) Program of aid in construction of small-scale reactors in selected countries (para. 5b - NSC 5431/1).

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(c) Training programs, provision of technical information and consulting services to aid other countries in building up their capabilities to use atomic energy (para. 5c - NSC 5431/1). The Director, FOA, has instituted a series of capabilities within his agency to support the technical training of foreign students in nuclear subjects on a non-classified basis.⁷

12. Appraisal of Effectiveness. During the period under review evidence continued to accumulate that the President's peaceful uses program enlisted a large measure of world public opinion support. In the view of the London Economist, which to a large degree is representative of sophisticated international political opinion, the proposal constituted "genuine psychological warfare".

13. Major Emerging Problems. The planned series of nuclear weapons tests, both in Nevada and in the Pacific Proving Grounds, can be expected to raise various climate of opinion problems abroad, especially in the Far East. On behalf of the Operations Coordinating Board, the Working Group will be in a position to advise the respective operating agencies as to their public information plans for those events, and will be prepared to recommend whatever actions may be necessary to minimize such climate of opinion adverse effects of such testing as may occur.

14. Public disclosure of the effects of thermo-nuclear weapons, particularly radioactive fall-out, is of major significance to foreign climate of opinion abroad, and could adversely affect U.S. international security interests, and may require exploration by the

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Working Group. It is understood that a special Cabinet Committee and the advice of OCB will be sought. _____ is formulating recommendations on this problem/with respect to the manner and timing of release of information.

15. World expectations with respect to the early utilization of nuclear energy as a source of power appear to be higher than warranted by the technical and cost factors involved. This imposes an obligation on our information services to publicize the difficult technical problems, lest the United States be accused of deliberately withholding a boon to mankind. A corollary obligation is imposed on policy makers to make sure that the technological attack on the problem is maintained at a pace which is consistent with U.S. security interests abroad, including maintenance of U.S. technical superiority over the USSR. A subcommittee of the NSC Planning Board investigating the problem is cognizant of this factor.

NOTE: Annex setting forth the detailed activities of the various departments and agencies in support of the various implementing papers will be furnished separately to the members of the Working Group.

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