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OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS BOARD  
Washington, D.C. 20540

12/1/55



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PROGRESS REPORT ON  
NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECTS AND RELATED INFORMATION  
(INCLUDING NSC 5421/1 and NSC 5502/2)  
PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 1954 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 1955

A. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTION AND DEVELOPMENTS

1. The following actions and decisions were taken by the Board in accordance with NSC 5421/1 and 5502/2, and NSC 5421/1 and 5502/2. The JCE role was to insure that requests for information be made in the maximum psychological advantage of the United States for the For-Peace Program.

a. Establishment of an International Atomic Energy Agency. Agreement has been reached with the U.S. and Canada regarding the provisions of a draft statute for the International Atomic Energy Agency. The draft statute was given by April 1, 1955. The other signatories are principally concerned--France, Australia, Belgium, West Germany and Africa. With comments from these countries being made, the announcement of the program has been made.

b. Training and Information Assistance. The following training and information programs to assist friendly foreign countries in developing peaceful uses of atomic energy:

(1) The School of Nuclear Science and Engineering, at Argonne National Laboratory opened March 1, 1955, with 31 foreign students from 19 foreign countries. Ceremonies included a welcome by the President during a week of orientation to be directed by H. S.

(2) AEC Technical Liaison, consisting of a series of technical search and development reports, abstracts, index cards and publications were presented to Japan (Nov. 1954), Italy (Mar. 1955), and France (Apr. 5, 1955). In addition, arrangements for international cooperation were made in the case of Norway (Apr. 1955) and Sweden (Apr. 1955). In addition, AEC has approved presentation of libraries to Argentina, Egypt, Australia, Iran, Italy, and other friendly countries.

c. Assistance in Power Reactor Technology. The U.S. will cooperate in atomic power reactor assistance with other friendly countries announced in a speech by Ambassador Kerec at the UN on April 19, 1955. While there were published references to negotiations for power reactor agreements for cooperation with Britain, Canada, and other friendly countries in technology, no agreement reached since when reports of such an agreement could be made.

d. Research Reactor Assistance. With extensive assistance to potentially interested countries in the world, the U.S. will continue to

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assistance. A bilateral agreement was concluded with Turkey in May 1954, with President Eisenhower participating in the ceremonies. Negotiations were under way with the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy and the Philippines. This program was further implemented by Ambassador Patterson's trip to the Middle East in December 1954; by the announcements of the sale of ten tons of heavy water to Italy on February 12, 1955, and the agreement in principle on a similar sale to Italy on March 29, 1955. Interest in pending negotiations was also shown by Spain and Brazil. Efforts to stimulate agreements with Japan and Mexico were continuing.

e. International Conference. At the United States Initiative, the UNGA on December 4, 1954, unanimously resolved to invite the UN Secretary General, assisted by an Advisory Committee, to convene an International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. The Advisory Committee, consisting of U.S., U.K., Canada, France, India, Italy, and the USSR met in New York January 15-22, 1955, and agreed to hold such a Conference in Geneva on August 8-20, 1955. Concrete plans for sustaining U.S. scientific and political leadership at the Conference were developed. Two major implementing actions publicly reported were the joint State-AEC announcement of plans for U.S. participation in the Conference, and the announcement of AEC activities including the opening of a research reactor at the Argonne site.

f. Nuclear-powered Ship. On April 25, 1955, a formal announcement was made of AEC intention to construct a nuclear-powered merchant vessel and send it on a round-the-world voyage as a demonstration of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

g. Atoms-for-Peace Stamp. In addition, the full design action was developed by the Working Group at the suggestion of the Atomic Energy Commission. Forty designs were received from AEC sources and a commemorative eight-cent Atoms-for-Peace stamp. Post Office announced the plan to issue such a stamp on June 1, 1955.

h. AEA Activities in Support of the General Atoms-for-Peace Program.

(1) Exhibits. Exhibits to Italy, West Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria, Brazil, India and Pakistan were displayed in total of 49,000,000 visitors. Additional exhibits were held in Finland, Scandinavia, Venezuela and Latin America.

(2) Films. In the 18-month period to September 30, 1955, 100,000 Atoms for Peace were issued in 60 countries and 1,000,000 copies of production items were freely available to the public.

(3) Fast Media. Fast media coverage of the first year of the program at least one story per day. AEC's fast media program.



(4) Press Service: The pamphlet, first issue of 1955, "Atomic Energy for Peace", achieved the fastest growth in circulation of any pamphlet, with 3,800,000 copies distributed in 34 languages. It provided a model of a second major pamphlet, "Atoms for Better Living", a translation of various speeches by AEC spokesmen, and a field reproduction.

2. Actions on the manner and timing of statements to the press

a. In response to N.S.A. report W-20(b) and W-20(c), a preliminary and a 90-day follow-up report on a press reaction to the AEC report of February 15, 1955 was prepared.

b. In response to the Board's actions of March 22, 1955, and April 13th, the Working Group explored causes of public misunderstanding, public understanding of the various types and effects of nuclear weapons, and acceptance of the use of these weapons under various international conditions.

c. Review of AEC-IAI information plan for the Nevada test series, including public education plan for Nevada test site, press information plan for the general public, and a motion picture on radiological safety in Nevada test site, and development of the test of an atomic bomb before the press.

d. Review of FCDA initial plan of the Nevada test site, initial public announcement.

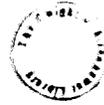
e. Review of OJM and other reports of the Department of Government.

f. Review of draft FRO-IAI statement of fact on the existence of any plan to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

B. EVALUATION OF PROGRESS

3. In the Atoms-for-Peace program, the past six months have been a period of planning, of exploration of the interest and attitudes of other countries, and of negotiation. International Atomic Energy Commission negotiations were continuing. Several bilateral agreements were expected to go forward to the President and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy this year. The interim training programs agreed to have met the present needs of most areas of the program and have established a strong interest.

4. Response to UNIA Atoms-for-Peace Exhibits was excellent. Together with continuing extensive NSI efforts in Europe, the exhibits helped to achieve a better understanding of the progress in advancing the peaceful uses of atomic energy. This was due to the receptivity of foreign and domestic audiences and to the high quality of the exhibits in this field.



5. In the absence of a series of major substantive actions in the U.S., a USIA opinion poll in four European countries in the wake of the recollection of the President's international pool proposal of December 8, 1953. There was also a slight lessening of awareness of peaceful atomic energy programs initiated by other countries, including the USSR.

6. Serious concern continued to be expressed at the USSR, Europe, in the Far East, and India over the effects of experimental explosions of nuclear devices. In particular, there was growing anxiety over the possible cumulative genetic effects of radioactivity from weapons tests. Despite factual official statements, there was widespread apprehension of the nature of fallout, its causes and the conditions which render it harmless or hazardous.

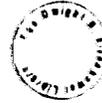
C. EMERGING PROBLEMS AND FUTURE ACTIONS

7. General Appreciation. The major problem confronting the United States in the area of foreign climate of opinion on peaceful uses of nuclear energy is to develop specific actions which are both realistic and sound, which satisfy the expectations of the free world, and which are of sufficient stature to offset Soviet counter moves. Special attention must be paid to offsetting world apprehensions with respect to weapons developments by a vigorous and fully-supported program of international cooperation in peaceful uses.

8. Continued Nuclear Weapon Tests. The development of public information operations in connection with future weapons tests is the joint responsibility of the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission. Under the terms of NSC Action 1360, the NSC staff conference with the Chairman, AEC, with respect to the overseas implications and implications bearing on such public information plans.

9. Effects of Radiation from Tests. Although the announcement of the National Academy of Science study of radiation effects programs can be considered an excellent forward step toward establishing a consensus of U.S. scientific viewpoints, Ambassador Lodge has requested additional international follow-up action appears necessary to counter all severe propaganda attacks on the United States in the White House, in the United Nations and elsewhere, particularly since the findings would be criticized as exclusively American and not reflecting the views of foreign scientists. Certain portions of the NAS study of radiation effects classified data which cannot be made available to any other country. Study is being given by interested agencies to determine the implications of the problem posed by Ambassador Lodge.

10. Disarmament. The U.S. position on disarmament steps should be understood abroad as it must be. This has an important bearing on foreign attitudes toward U.S. nuclear programs, including the necessity for continued weapon development. It has not been well publicized in the



by the NSC for coordinating the psychological effort by the media, although from time to time cert in aspects of this program should be noted by the Board. Specific responsibility within the Board for the coordination of domestic and overseas public information programs on disarmament should be established, and the Office of Information should

## 11. Atoms-for-Peace Programs.

a. Bilateral Agreements for Research Reactors. It is proving necessary to stimulate requests for bilateral agreements for cooperation for research reactors. In many cases, such reactors seem not to be attractive unless they are provided by the United States. In underdeveloped countries, furthermore, the necessary technical staff to operate research reactors and use them productively is not available, and funds even to operate such reactors are scarce. We shall have to show continuing ingenuity to keep any but the few technically advanced countries actively interested in developing "Atoms-for-Peace" research reactors during the next few years and a program of nuclear power development is proceeding.

b. International Conference. At the forthcoming International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva in August, the U.S. must achieve a maximum information exploitation of the contributions, and offset expected USSR propaganda effort to either dominate the Conference or distort its purposes. An ad hoc international information group representing IAEA, AEC, and UICIA is planned for the coordination of all U.S. public information activities in connection with

c. Nuclear-powered Ship. The psychological impact of the nuclear-powered merchant vessel program, announced by the President on April 25, will be governed to some extent by the degree to which the maritime community accepts the vessel itself as a genuine contribution to marine progress, and, to a greater extent, by the degree to which the free world accepts the program as a genuine demonstration of peaceful nuclear energy application.

The foregoing suggests that for most effective psychological exploitation, the "snowboard" aspect of the vessel as a fast, efficient exhibits and demonstration of nuclear ship propulsion should be combined with its utilization as a working craft.

12. Civil Defense Exercises. Public reporting of details of Civil Defense exercises and Continuity of Government programs will continue to have a collateral bearing on our image in the minds of people in the United States. On behalf of the Board the Working Group is in a position to advise the respective operating agencies as to their public information plans for these events and will be prepared to coordinate whatever actions may be necessary to minimize and counteract any unfavorable climate of opinion overseas as a result thereof.



13. The Soviet Challenge.

a. World Peace Congress. Soviet-manipulated World Peace Council will stage a World Peace Congress at Helsinki June 17. A widespread international signature campaign for a peace petition which calls for the outlawing of atomic weapons has been under way for several months. Continued Soviet exploitation of "ban the bomb" propaganda may be anticipated. An interdepartmental working group composed of State, .....USIA representatives is developing the U.S. information program to offset the Soviet efforts in this direction.

b. Soviet "Atoms-for-Peace" Maneuvers. Although the U.S. is maintaining its lead over other nations in the atoms-for-peace field, competition from the USSR has been emerging during the past six months. The Soviets have launched an atoms-for-peace propaganda campaign of their own, of which the chief theme has been their claim (arguably true) to have in operation the world's first non-military atomic power station. There is a real possibility that the Soviet actions, presently limited to satellite countries, may be extended to neutral states such as India, Pakistan or Burma. This possibility gives urgency to proceeding with the courses of action set forth in NSC 5509/2, particularly development of a small-scale power reactor suitable for use in undeveloped areas.