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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1066

3:45 p.m., Monday, March 14, 1955

Present

Lewis L. Strauss
Thomas E. Murray
W. F. Libby

K. D. Nichols
R. W. Cook
William Mitchell

W. B. McCool
William L. Oakley

Also Present

A. Tammaro
Paul F. Foster
John A. Hall
Dr. John C. Bugher
Roland Anderson
Shelby Thompson
U. S. Staebler
Leonard M. Brenner
Comdr. Charles E. Nelson

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 8/17/93	2ND REVIEW DATE: 8-21-75
AUTHORITY: EAO/CDAC/KJG	AUTHORITY: ADD
NAME: MIA	NAME: W. M. Matheson
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- Visits to "Iron Curtain" Countries by Mr. Walter Whitman
(See minutes of Meeting 1065)

The Chairman said that, as the Commission had agreed, he had talked with Mr. Whitman concerning his plans to visit "Iron Curtain" countries, in his capacity as Secretary General of the International Scientific Conference. During the conversation Mr. Whitman had suggested that it would be preferable to discuss the matter after the Chairman had received a letter which he had recently written on this subject.* The Chairman said that no conclusion had been reached in the conversation.

*A copy of Mr. Whitman's letter of March 12 is on file in the Office of the Secretary.

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b. That the Hiroshima project should be made a major center for the distribution of isotopes in Japan and perhaps in the Far East.

c. That a course to provide training in the medical and biological applications of isotopes be established at Hiroshima in July, before the International Scientific Conference.

d. That a medical research reactor similar to the proposed Brookhaven Medical Reactor be contributed to a medical school and hospital at Hiroshima. Dr. Bugher observed that some support from private or public U. S. sources might be necessary to assist in building up medical schools at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Commissioners indicated that in general they thought these projects desirable. The Chairman and Mr. Libby both expressed concern, however, that establishing new facilities at Hiroshima and Nagasaki might have an unfavorable effect on public opinion in Japan and elsewhere and might appear to be an attempt to expiate the atomic bombing of those cities. Commissioner Libby also suggested that the Japanese might prefer to purchase the proposed medical reactor and enter into a bilateral agreement with the U. S. for this and other projects. He recounted his discussions on this general subject with personnel of the National Science Foundation who had suggested that the Japanese desire to be independent might account for the lack of enthusiasm for the proposal that a power reactor be presented as a gift to Japan. After extensive discussion of these and related matters, it was concluded that Mr. Foster should raise with the OCB the question of proceeding with these projects and of locating facilities at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The General Manager said that the projects which Dr. Bugher had outlined would be made the subject of a formal staff paper (see AEC 489/2, subsequently circulated).

At this point Dr. Bugher left the meeting.

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The Chairman then read Mr. Whitman's letter and informed the other Commissioners that he had asked the Department of State to obtain the opinion of the U. S. Ambassador to the U. S. S. R. regarding the advisability of Dr. Whitman's visiting "Iron Curtain" countries. The Commissioners agreed that they would consider the matter further after the opinion of the Ambassador is obtained and before Mr. Whitman leaves Geneva on March 27.

2. AEC 41/4 - Proposed Revision to Rules of the Patent Compensation Board

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Anderson discussed with the Commissioners the proposed revisions of the rules of the Board, especially the proposed new delegations of authority to make decisions on behalf of the Commission in patent compensation matters. The legal basis for delegating this authority was reviewed and the Commission's recourse from the Board's decisions was considered. After extensive consideration, the Commission:

Approved the recommendation of AEC 41/4.

In the course of this discussion Mr. Murray briefly left the meeting and Dr. Bugher entered the meeting.

At this point Mr. Anderson left the meeting.

3. Proposals for Atomic Energy Projects in Japan

Dr. Bugher outlined a number of proposals for U. S. atomic energy projects in Japan and for support of a number of Japanese projects. These were:

- a. That the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, which is engaged in medical research but not in treatment, be combined with a Japanese clinical treatment program and reoriented in the direction of atomic energy applications to medical problems. Major facilities for the combined program might be located at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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7. AEC 152/60 - Draft Report to the NSC on the Status of the Reactor Program

The Chairman said that the Draft Report had been prepared at the request of General Cutler and was scheduled for presentation to the NSC on March 24. The Commissioners agreed to provide the staff with their comments on the Report within the next several days and asked that a revised draft be prepared for their review by March 18, if possible.

At this point all members of the staff except Messrs. Mitchell, McCool and Oakley left the meeting.

8. Arrangements for Briefing on Operation WIGWAM

The Commissioners and the General Manager reviewed arrangements for a briefing on Operation WIGWAM by representatives of JTF-7 on March 15. Mr. Foster reported that the State Department now favors issuing public announcement before the test and that the DOD is reconsidering its position on this question. The Commissioners discussed AEC's interest in the public information aspects of the operation and concluded that these are a matter of direct concern to the Commission.

9. Proposed Television Program Concerning Los Alamos

The Commissioners briefly discussed a proposal by CBS to make Los Alamos the subject of a commercial television broadcast.

10. Ebasco Fee Settlement (See minutes of Meeting 1063 and AEC 385/67)

Mr. Cook said that he had informed Mr. McAfee of EEI of the Commission's position that the minimum acceptable settlement of Ebasco's fee claims, without court action, would be that by which Ebasco would receive no profit for its engineering and construction services on the Joppa project. Subsequently, after obtaining legal

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13. Consideration of Executive Session Minutes and Transcripts

The Commission approved the Minutes of the Executive Session held during Meeting 1059 and agreed that the transcripts of Executive Sessions held during Meetings 1055, 1056, 1058 and 1062, should be the only record of those sessions.

14. Commissioner Murray's Letter Concerning a Proposed Weapons Test Moratorium to the President

Mr. Murray asked that it be recorded that during the GAC meeting, held March 2-4, he had stated his intention of writing to the President on the subject of a weapons test moratorium.*

At this point the General Manager, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Oakley left the meeting and the Commissioners went into Executive Session.

15. Executive Session**

- a. Consultant Contract for Mr. Nichols
- b. Selection of a General Manager
- c. U, K. Use of Eniwetok Site
- d. Declassification of Project SHERWOOD
- e. Additional Studies for the Los Alamos and Livermore Laboratories


W. B. McSee
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: April 11, 1955

*A copy of Mr. Murray's letter, dated March 14, 1955, is on file in the Office of the Secretary.

**Separate minutes for this part of the meeting have been circulated.