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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

408471

MEETING NO. 1343

R

10:30 a. m., Tuesday, March 18, 1958

Present

- W. F. Libby
- Harold S. Vance
- John S. Graham
- K. E. Fields
- Edward Diamond
- W. B. McCool

Also Present

- James E. Ammons
- Comdr. P. F. Bankhardt
- Don S. Burrows
- Gordon M. Dunning
- Anthony H. Ewing
- Paul F. Foster
- Lt. Col. H. D. Goodell
- Clark Goodman
- Everett R. Holles
- Milton G. Jenkins
- George M. Kavanagh
- George J. Keto
- Ralph G. Mayer
- Kenneth F. Musick
- Franklin Parks
- Capt. Jack Rosen
- Morse Salisbury
- Brig. Gen. A. D. Starbird
- Wilbur A. Strausser
- A. Tammaro
- John A. Waters
- Richard V. Willit
- Robert W. Zehring

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Mr. Strauss was unable to attend the Meeting because he was in Washington, D. C. on Commission business.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 9/11/95	1. CLASSIFICATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: E.O. 12958, 1.4	2. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: [Signature]	3. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE: 7-14-95	4. CONTAINS NO INFO CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: E.O. 12958, 1.4	5. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: [Signature]	6. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	7. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	8. OTHER (SPECIFY): PAGES 180-188

1. Appointment of Congressman Aspinall to the JCAE

Mr. Fields reported that Mr. Strauss had met and congratulated Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall (D-Colorado) on his appointment to the JCAE as a successor to Congressman Dempsey.

2. Stanford Accelerator Project

Mr. Fields reported on Mr. Strauss' recent conversation with Mr. Donald Quarles, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and said Mr. Quarles had expressed agreement with the Chairman's position that one agency rather than three should be responsible for the Stanford accelerator project and that that agency should be the Atomic Energy Commission. He added that the Chairman had also discussed this question with Dr. James R. Killian, Scientific Advisor to the President, and that Dr. Killian had now reversed his support of three agencies and agreed that the AEC should be solely responsible for the project.

Mr. Libby suggested that in proceeding with this project, the Commission should, prior to review of any proposed construction plans, request an engineering design study for the accelerator. Mr. Graham referred to his remarks at the recent GAC meeting about the Stanford project and said he agreed with Mr. Libby's suggestion that design studies be submitted prior to a request for construction funds.

Mr. Fields said recommendations would be submitted to the Commission within two weeks on measures for proceeding with the Stanford accelerator project with AEC solely responsible for the project.

3. AEC 952/35 - Official Observer Program for HARDTACK

General Starbird reviewed AEC 952/35 which contained a recommended official observer program for Operation HARDTACK and commented on the number of proposed observer spaces for the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission. With respect to the DOD wish to invite UK, Canadian, Australian, and NATO military observers, General Starbird said the AEC should not comment on this matter but that it would be discussed by the DOD with the Department of State.

Mr. Libby questioned whether the list of invitees included all those government officials invited to Operation REDWING. General Starbird explained why certain officials were not included but said he would review the list with respect to omissions to avoid any possible embarrassment to the AEC.

Mr. Libby then inquired about the open shot to which U. N. observers would be invited. General Starbird replied that this question would be considered by the Operations Coordinating Board on March 19, 1958, and that he would circulate to the Commissioners the memorandum being prepared on the open observer shot for submission to the OCB by the Chairman. He then reviewed briefly the detailed plans for the U. N. observers who might attend the shot. He also commented on the impact of these observers on the AEC space allotment.

In response to a question by Mr. Libby, General Starbird said it might be necessary to exclude press observers also if the U. N. observer program were not approved. Mr. Libby expressed concern about this question of possible exclusion of press observers from the test and the public relations aspect involved in such action. Mr. Salisbury commented that recommendations on alternative press attendance at the test had not been submitted to the Commission pending a decision on the U. N. observer program.

Mr. Libby then expressed satisfaction with the program for the press in connection with the RAINIER shot and said such a program is needed in Operation HARDTACK.

Mr. Graham then referred to the list of invitees discussed earlier in the meeting and suggested that Mr. James Wadsworth, Disarmament Advisor to the Secretary of State, be included in the list. He also suggested that in view of the important role in foreign policy formulation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, consideration should be given to inviting these groups.

In response to a question by Mr. Graham, General Starbird explained the policy followed in inviting project managers instead of the high officials of companies having contracts with the AEC.

After further discussion, the Commission:

- a. Approved sending, after review by the Director of Military Application, an invitation generally similar to Appendix "B" to AEC 952/35, to the individuals listed in Appendix "A" to AEC 952/35, as revised;

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b. Noted that dispatch of an invitation similar to Appendix "B" to AEC 952/35 to the Joint Committee will serve as notification of the program and an invitation to its Chairman and the Committee as a whole, but that similar but somewhat abbreviated letters will be sent to the individual members of the Joint Committee; and

c. Approved the dispatch of letter (Appendix "C" to AEC 952/35) to the Secretary of Defense concurring in part in the Secretary's proposals and suggesting certain modifications.

The Commissioners said that if the OCB does not approve a clean weapon test for UN observers, AEC 952/35 should be resubmitted to the Commission for further consideration.

4. AEC 781/87 - Proposed Transmittal of Weapons Safety Information to the U. K.

Under consideration was AEC 781/87 which contained a recommendation that the Commission approve the transmittal of weapons safety information to the UK as proposed by the Department of Defense.

General Starbird referred to the draft letter to the DOD on this matter and suggested revised language in paragraph 1 regarding the special nuclear materials in the weapons in question. The Commissioners had no objection to the revised language. Mr. Diamond said he questioned whether important weapons design information would be disclosed under the proposed transmittal. Mr. Libby said he believed the revised language suggested by General Starbird would preclude this possibility.

Mr. Graham commented on the close US relationship with the UK and questioned whether it was possible to be more candid in informing the UK of the type of weapons involved. General Starbird replied that until the proposed amendments to the Atomic Energy Act now being considered are accepted, he believed the proposed transmittal would satisfactorily serve the UK need for information. He said the transmittal would correct the present impression of high UK officials regarding the presence of special nuclear materials in weapons in the UK.

In response to a question by Mr. Fields, General Starbird commented briefly on the procedures followed in transporting nuclear weapons to the UK. Mr. Fields observed that under these conditions, an accidental explosion was not possible.

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