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

November 4, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSIONERS AND GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: AGENDA PLANNING SESSION, 11:00 A.M., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1957

At 11:00 a.m., on Friday, November 1, 1957, the Agenda Planning Session was held in the Chairman's office. Those present were:

W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance
John S. Graham
John F. Floberg

R. W. Cook
Edward Diamond

W. B. McCool
Richard V. Willit

1. Agenda

a. Briefing on AEC Reactor Program

Mr. Graham commented on the significance of the meetings of the Commission with representatives of industry on December 3, 4 and 5 to discuss their participation in the atomic energy program. He suggested that the Commission discuss the plans for these meetings during the reactor briefing on November 5. He pointed out that the meetings with the industrial representatives offered the Commission an excellent opportunity to discuss specific problems of a technical nature with industry and he urged that careful planning be undertaken to ensure a successful conference.

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The Commissioners briefly discussed staff attendance at the November 5 briefing and agreed that attendance should be limited to members of the Reactor Development staff.

Mr. Vance said he had recently discussed the general topic of industrial participation in the AEC program with former Commissioner H. D. Smyth and he requested that Mr. Smyth be invited to the December meetings with industrial representatives. Mr. Vance also expressed his belief that the meetings should be devoted to the technical aspects of the atomic energy industry and should avoid such topics as the political and financial factors involved in atomic industrial development. The other Commissioners agreed with this view.

b. GAC Review of Operation HARDTACK

In response to a question by Mr. Libby, Mr. McCool said that a discussion of Operation HARDTACK is scheduled for the next GAC meeting to be held at Los Alamos beginning November 21.

c. Meeting with Sir Edwin Plowden (See AEC 862/37 - U. S. Position on U. K. Request for Special Nuclear Materials)

The Commissioners discussed the desirability of limiting discussions with Sir Edwin Plowden to the provision of U-235 to the U. K. for use in power reactors within the U. K. Mr. Vance pointed out that the broader question of exchange of weapons with the U. K. should not be discussed with Sir Edwin at the present time.

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d. AEC 781/78 - Proposed Transmittal of CORPORAL Warhead Information to the U. K.

In response to a question by Mr. Graham, Mr. Libby said the JCAE has indicated approval of the principle of the transmittal of certain nuclear warhead information to the U. K.

2. Discussion of AEC Relations with Industry

Mr. Libby said he was concerned about the apparent belief on the part of many industrialists that companies will suffer financial losses from their cooperation with the AEC in joint undertakings. He cited as an example, AEC's cancellation of contracts with some companies after they have invested substantial effort and sums of money in developing a particular project. The Commissioners also discussed AEC's patent policy and its effect in discouraging some industries from participating in atomic energy projects because they will not be able to retain all patent rights to inventions they make while working on AEC projects. Mr. Vance remarked that some firms believe that there are unreasonable delays in obtaining from AEC firm responses to their proposals. Mr. Libby suggested, and the other Commissioners agreed that an Ad Hoc Committee should be established to examine means of improving AEC relations with industry. Mr. Graham pointed out that AEC is the only agency in Government, which is concerned with all aspects of the atomic energy program from the production of raw materials to the manufacture of end products and as such has a responsibility to serve as the industry's spokesman in the Government.

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3. Ad Hoc Committee on Isotopes Development

During the above discussion, Mr. Libby requested that the staff submit in the near future recommendations on the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to advise the Commission on means of expanding the isotopes program.

4. Additional Members for ACRS

Mr. Libby reported that he had recently talked to Professor John Wheeler of Princeton about his joining the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and that he believed Professor Wheeler would accept a position on the Committee. He requested that Professor Wheeler be contacted further about his membership and also that Mr. Cook speak to Mr. Hood Worthington of DuPont about his possible membership on the ACRS.

5. Weapons Safety Discussion

Mr. Graham referred to the October 23, Commission briefing on weapons safety by Mr. Dan Cotter of the Sandia Laboratory and expressed interest in the manner in which the mathematical possibilities of a chance detonation are calculated. Mr. Libby referred him to AEC-R 29/1 - Notice of Proposed Rule-Making to Establish Amount of Financial Protection Required, which sets forth the way in which AEC determines insurance rates for private atomic installations, and to a Brookhaven publication entitled, "Theoretical Possibilities and Consequences of Major Accidents in Large Nuclear Power Plants".

6. December Commission Meeting Schedule

Mr. McCool noted that the non-meeting week in December would be scheduled for the week of December 23.

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7. New Staff Papers for Week of November 4

Mr. Cook said that in addition to the papers listed on the draft agenda for the week of November 4, he would also schedule a draft letter to the President on Operation HARDTACK (AEC 952/19) and staff paper on U. N. Observers at Operation HARDTACK (AEC 952/20).

8. AEC Planning Estimates for the DOD

Mr. Cook reported that the AEC Planning Estimates would be submitted for Commission consideration during mid-November.

9. New Manager of Portsmouth Area

Mr. Cook said Mr. R. H. McCulloch, the present Deputy Manager at Portsmouth would be appointed Portsmouth area manager succeeding Mr. Kenneth A. Dunbar.

10. AEC 20/64 - AEC Contract with Atomic Fuel Extraction Corporation

Mr. Cook commented on a recent request by a stockbroker and a stockholder in the Atomic Fuel Extraction Corporation for reconsideration of our previous decision to allow the contract to expire by its terms on October 1, 1957 and to deny an additional extension of time to begin construction of a uranium processing plant at Bedrock, Colorado. He pointed out that AEC has already granted three previous extensions and he recommended that the request not be given further consideration. After discussion, the Commissioners said they had no objection to the Acting General Manager's recommendation. Mr. Cook said he would inform the Corporation representatives and Senator Kefauver of the AEC's decision.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

cc: General Counsel

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