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

BOX No. 189 (NN3-326-93-010)

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Agenda Planning Meeting 5/29
Session Agenda Notes
March 19, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSIONERS AND GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: AGENDA PLANNING SESSION, 11:00 A.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1956

At 11:00 a.m., on Friday, March 16, 1956, the Agenda Planning Session was held in the Chairman's Office. Those present were:

Lewis L. Strauss
Thomas E. Murray
W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance

R. W. Cook
Edward Diamond

W. B. McCool
William L. Oakley

Manuel Dupkin II
Richard J. Hallinan

Handwritten notes:
04/21/95
W. Schmidt
4/26/95
H. Schmidt

The following subjects were discussed:

1. Observer Program for Operation REDWING

Mr. Strauss said that the Chief of Naval Operations had informed him that it would be necessary to know the extent of the observer program for Operation REDWING on Monday, March 19 so that plans could be made for transportation. He also said that at the last OCB meeting the majority sentiment of the members had been not to invite press representatives as observers because of the effect of subsequent articles on foreign public opinion. After extensive discussion, the Commissioners concluded

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that it would be desirable to invite a limited number of press representatives to attend Operation REDWING. Mr. Strauss said he would speak to the Under Secretary of State later in the day and would inform him of the Commissioners' views on press attendance. He added that if AEC's views were not accepted by the other agencies, he believed it should be made clear that it was not the Commission's decision to exclude press representatives.

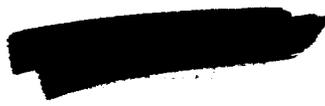
2. Agenda

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Agenda for the week of March 19. Mr. Strauss said that he would prepare a memorandum of his discussions with the Under Secretary of State and with the President on the observer program for Operation REDWING since he would not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 20. He also said that he would prepare a memorandum commenting on AEC 822/1 - "Personnel Security Cases", if he had any comments.

3. Items of Information

a. Position on Disarmament - Mr. Strauss said that he had informed Mr. Fine that he concurred in the Commission's approval at Meeting 1185 on March 14 of the revised Position Paper on Restrictions on Nuclear Weapons Tests.

b. London Disarmament Discussions - Mr. Strauss reported that two messages had been received from Mr. Gardner who was attending the London Disarmament Subcommittee discussions and that Mr. Foster would circulate these messages to the Commissioners.


c. Speech on Fallout - Mr. Libby said that on April 20, he would speak on the subject of radioactive fallout.

d. U. N. Radiation Committee - Mr. Libby inquired whether any comments had been received from other government agencies concerning the disclosure of methods of collecting radioactive fallout samples on a world wide basis. He observed that if AEC referred to the samples during meetings of the U. N. Scientific Committee on Radiation, it would be necessary to disclose the source of these samples. Mr. Strauss said that he would discuss the matter with the Under Secretary of State later in the day.

e. AEC Support of University Research Reactors - Mr. Libby said he believed the Commission should consider means of supporting a part of the additional cost of the research reactor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Cook said he would determine whether the National Science Foundation had funds available for this purpose.

4. AEC Headquarters Building

Mr. Vance referred to the postponement of solicitation of bids for the AEC headquarters building and said it would be desirable for the Commission to consider this matter as soon as possible. Mr. Libby suggested that it be considered at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 20. Mr. Strauss said that he would prepare a memorandum on his position. Mr. Murray said he was opposed to any change in present plans to move to Germantown.

At this point Mr. Murray left the meeting.



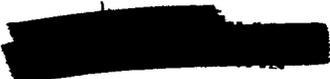
In response to a question by Mr. Strauss, Mr. Vance commented on his discussions with the Director, ODM, who had indicated that other considerations besides dispersal might be over-riding. He also referred to a letter to the President dated May 3, 1955, concerning the location of the headquarters building. Mr. Libby suggested that Mr. Strauss discuss with the President at his meeting on Monday the desirability of AEC moving to the new location.

5. U.S.S.R. Offer of Material to Norway

Mr. Strauss reported on a letter which Mr. Randers, Director of the Norwegian Atomic Energy Institute, had received from a U.S.S.R. scientist offering Norway 10 kilograms of uranium at 2% enrichment and 50 to 100 kilograms of zirconium. The letter also invited Norwegian scientists to use certain U.S.S.R. accelerators and research reactors. Mr. Strauss said that Mr. Randers would like to have the Commission's informal views on the offer. He said that he believed the Commission should encourage Norway to accept the offer since this would reduce the amount of material the U.S.S.R. had available for weapons. Mr. Libby said he agreed that the offer should be accepted. He added that he believed the U. S. should assist countries which the U.S.S.R. assisted, as a matter of principle.

6. Nuclear Powered Merchant Ship

Mr. Strauss said that the President's Naval Aide had informed him that the Maritime Administration had presented to the President, modified designs for the nuclear powered merchant ship. He inquired whether the Division of Reactor Development was aware that the Maritime Administration had proposed design changes.





7. Press Release on Policy On Irradiation of Gems

Mr. Strauss said he concurred in the Commission's decision at Meeting 1185 to issue a press release on the policy on service irradiation of gems.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

cc: General Counsel

