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FOLDER MR3A7 Castle (Vol 2)

January 28, 1954

COPY NO. 23

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting No. 948

11:00 a.m., Friday, December 18, 1953

Present

Lewis L. Strauss  
Henry D. Smyth  
Thomas E. Murray  
Eugene M. Zuckert  
Joseph Campbell

Kenneth D. Nichols  
William Mitchell

Roy B. Snapp  
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

Brig. Gen. K.E. Fields  
Capt. William L. Guthrie (USN)  
Col. Vincent G. Huston  
Morse Salisbury  
John Mackenzie

1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>5/23/95</u>	2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>5/24/95</u>
AUTHORITY: <u>[Signature]</u>	AUTHORITY: <u>[Signature]</u>
NAME: <u>[Signature]</u>	NAME: <u>[Signature]</u>
3. CLASSIFIED BY: <u>[Signature]</u>	4. CONFIDENTIALITY: <u>[Signature]</u>
5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

1. Agenda for Week of December 21

The Commission reviewed the agenda for the week of December 21.

2. AEC 597/30 and AEC 597/31 - Observer Program for Operation CASTLE (See minutes of Meeting 946)

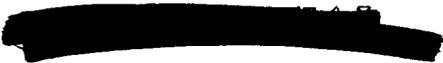
The Commission resumed consideration of proposals concerning the observer program at the forthcoming test operation, as set forth in memoranda by Commissioner Murray (AEC 597/30\*) and a staff paper by the Directors of Military Application and Information Services (AEC 597/31).

The Commission first discussed at length with members of the staff the question whether, from the point of view

\* An additional memorandum of Commissioner Murray's on this subject is attached to the minutes of Meeting 946.



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of the AEC, an uncleared observer program was desirable and what effect such a program might have on the conduct of the operation. Such matters as the success of the observer program at the CROSSROADS tests and the problems which will arise in preventing unauthorized disclosures at Operation CASTLE were considered.

The Commissioners then discussed whether and by what means it would be proper to inform the President or the NSC if the Commission were to determine that there should be no uncleared observer program. It was suggested that the Secretary prepare a draft<sup>1/</sup> letter to the President on this subject.

The General Manager suggested that if there were to be no uncleared observer program it would be desirable to authorize the preparation of films, photographs and other records of the operation. He also suggested that the number of official observers be specified and that every effort be made to insure that the tests would be attended by the original invitees and not by alternates.

After further discussion the Commission:

a. AGREED that there would be no uncleared observer program for CASTLE;

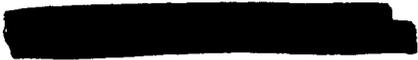
b. APPROVED an official observer program for CASTLE limited to key government officials and others having a direct interest in and<sup>2/</sup> responsibility for the atomic program

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1/ Chairman

2/ Secretariat





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c. NOTED that a [draft] <sup>3/</sup> letter to the President would be prepared informing him of the Commission's decision, as set forth in a and b above;\*

d. AUTHORIZED compilation of an adequate record in text and pictures for release at the conclusion of the tests as may seem desirable in the national interest; and

e. AUTHORIZED dispatch to the Chairman of the MLC of a letter such as than in Appendix "B" to AEC 597/31, revised in accordance with the discussion at the meeting.

Mr. Murray asked to be recorded as dissenting from the majority decision that there would be no uncleared observer program. /

ROY B. SNAPP

Secretary

Approved by the Commission: **MAY 26 1954**

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3/ Chairman

\* At an Executive Session on January 5, 1954, the Chairman advised that he had decided that no Commission letter was needed as a letter from Mr. Murray to the President (dated January 4, 1954) had mentioned the Commission decision not to have an uncleared observer program (See AEC 597/35).

