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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1295

2:45 p.m., Wednesday, July 24, 1957

Present

Lewis L. Strauss
W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance

K. E. Fields
Edward Diamond

W. B. McCool

Also Present

James E. Ammons
E. J. Bloch
Howard C. Brown
Don S. Burrows
Capt. Edward E. Conrad
W. Kenneth Davis
Spofford G. English
Paul C. Fine
Harvey Fireside
Edward R. Gardner
Lt. Col. H. C. Goodell
Dwight A. Ink
George M. Kavanagh
George J. Keto
Bryan F. LaPlante
George G. Manov
John L. McGruder
Capt. Kenneth F. Musick
Donald F. Musser
Curtis A. Nelson
Col. Carey L. O'Bryan

Norvell W. Page
Calvin Potts
Harold L. Price
Charles H. Reichardt
Morse Salisbury
Lt. Col. Raymond I. Schnittke
Charles W. Shilling
Brig. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird
Col. Charles B. Stewart
A. Tammaro
A. A. Wells
Forrest Western

Dr. Alvin C. Graves, LASL
Hon. Herbert B. Loper, MLC
Gen. Perry Griffith, JTF-7
Col. Lester L. Woodward,
Dep. Dir. AFOAT-1
Mr. Doyle N. Northrup,
Tech., Dir. AFOAT-1
Major Frank G. Richie, JTF-7
Dr. Frank Shelton, AFSWP

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COLLECTION *AEC Minutes (NNS-526-92-006)*
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DOE CLFD INFO
ON P. 366-367
and 363

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HP Schmidt
9-11-95
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CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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DOD(AFTAC) [initials]
PP 362-375

Page(s) 363 remain(s) classified.

The withheld page(s) will be coordinated with the
Department of Energy under NND 982027.

eighty meters in the immediate areas of the shots. General Starbird commented that these ships would cost approximately \$1 million to \$2 million. In response to a question by Mr. Strauss, Dr. Shelton said that these ships had been equipped for use in Operation REDWING and that it is not practical to consider equipping smaller ships.

General Starbird commented on the additional information requested by the Department of Defense on fallout in the intermediate areas and said that the use of radioactive tracers, the B-50 airplanes, and other high-altitude airplanes would provide this information. He added that the cost of these experiments would be approximately \$6 million, but that neither the AEC nor the DOD are sure of available funds at this time. General Starbird said consideration is also being given to other experiments involving rockets and ships to collect fallout data. He pointed out that the question of funds for the use of rockets does not require an immediate decision. However, the Department of the Navy has requested an answer by July 31, 1957, concerning the use of the two drone ships since the Navy plans to place these ships in the reserve fleet at an early date. In response to a question by Mr. Strauss, General Starbird said the Department of the Navy has indicated that funds are not available for these two ships but that this matter is still being discussed.

Mr. Libby commented on the importance of establishing a reliable fallout program for Operation HARDTACK and said he believed the program outlined is a reasonable one. However, he added that he would prefer that it be expanded if sufficient funds were available.

During discussion of these experiments, Mr. Libby commented on the total fallout expected from Operation HARDTACK and said the fallout program for this test should be at least as comprehensive as that for Operation REDWING. Mr. Graves said that two other activities in the fallout program would consist of land stations close to the actual test area and a number of vessels such as tugs, destroyers, and LST's which would be stationed in the fallout area.

General Loper remarked that the major problem of the DOD with respect to the proposed fallout program concerns funding. He added that available funds in the DOD for this program are not sufficient to meet the cost of the program to the DOD.

U.S. and U.K. figures on the evaluation of the yield of some U.S. shots, indicating that there may be some systematic error in the U. S. method of calculation. Mr. Strauss commented that even though there may be some error in U.S. figures, he questioned whether such an error would be of sufficient importance to warrant the transmission of U. S. yield information to the U. K. , thereby possibly compromising weapons design information. General Loper commented that the DOD is particularly concerned with the question whether the information transmitted would actually reveal weapons design information.