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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

MAR 28 1964

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Dear Larry:

We were pleased to receive Dr. Benedict's letter of January 17, 1964, commenting on the results of the Committee's 87th meeting. Our comments are as follows:

(1) Meeting with Assistant General Manager for Research and Development

We agree on the desirability of continuing the annual informal meeting of the Committee with Dr. English and his division directors.

(2) Maritime Reactor Program

The development program for advanced concepts for maritime propulsion has been reviewed by the Commission within the budgetary restrictions imposed for FY 1965. It has been concluded that the 630A research and development effort should be carried through to an orderly completion extending into FY 1965 even though this may mean that no other work on advanced concepts can be carried on. This plan would allow results of current work to be completed and reports prepared so that the information will be available for future use. Orderly completion of the R&D program will provide a basis for future Title I design of a prototype.

(3) Isotopes Development

We have issued a request for expressions of interest from industry for the construction and operation of a plant to recover radioisotopes at Hanford. An information meeting for the industry was held at Hanford on February 25 and 26; representatives of more than 40 companies attended. Another meeting to review the applicable technology for such a plant was held in Oak Ridge on March 17 and 18.

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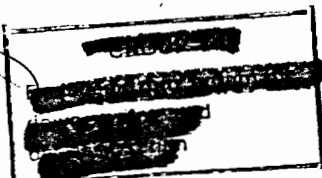
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Carroll J. Brown 4/23/84
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(4) Education and Training

We are pleased that the GAC has appointed a special subcommittee to study the educational role of the Commission and the National Laboratories and their relation to the universities. We will be most happy to furnish further information as needed.

(5) Uranium-233

We are actively assessing our requirements for U-233 and preliminary indications are that it would be desirable to produce additional quantities of the order of magnitude as suggested by the Committee. Our final decision will, of course, have to be based on a detailed study of needs and costs for producing the material.

(6) I-131 Fallout Report

The Committee has recommended " . . . that the Commission develop a definitive policy and procedure to deal promptly with the recent report (Dr. Martell's article in Science) and similar articles which may appear in the future . . ." Also, the Committee urged " . . . that attention be given to the public information situation concerning fallout of iodine alleged to have come from underground tests (Martell, Science, January 10, 1964) . . ."

The Commission is in full agreement with the Committee's position of dealing promptly and effectively with false allegations and calling upon individuals of scientific stature whenever possible. Inquiries from news media are, of course, responded to with the information immediately available. The adequacy of a prompt reply to articles appearing in reputable publications will naturally vary with individual situations.

When Dr. Martell first introduced his hypothesis (Congressional Hearings - Radiation Standards, Including Fallout, pps. 748-752, 1962) the Commission actively sought responses from those best qualified to answer and then assured their publication in the same document as Dr. Martell's statements (pps. 752-804). These responses included refutation of Dr. Martell's principal allegations contained in his Science article of January 10, 1964, concerning fallout in September 1961 and May 1962.

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Further refutation of Dr. Martell's findings in the September 1961 case (Martell and Penn, Journal of Geophysical Research, July 15, 1963,) has been published subsequently (Reiter, Journal of Applied Meteorology, December, 1963 and Reiter; Machta, List and Telegadas; and Lockhart; Journal of Geophysical Research, February 15, 1964). A detailed treatment of the meteorological evidence in the May 1962 case is being prepared by Dr. Lester Machta and his associates at the U. S. Weather Bureau for submission to Science.

The Commission's staff is actively working on evaluating all of the pertinent data relevant to venting at the Nevada Test Site. Since this work involves unique data and problems, it will not be finished speedily but the Commission will press for as early a completion date as possible. Of necessity these studies involve classified data. We will analyze the results of these studies with a view to preparing them in an unclassified form releasable to the public.

(7) The Gas Centrifuge

The Commission is currently reviewing all aspects of the gas centrifuge problem. The Committee's suggestions were timely and are being taken into consideration. We will communicate with you as soon as we have completed our review of this program.

(8) Weapons

Weapons Effects - Regarding the Committee's desire to be informed of new developments in weapons effects and in particular the status of effort on the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effect, arrangements have been made to have Dr. William McMillan, Dr. Conrad Longmire and Military Service representatives discuss the theory, state of present knowledge and the future program.

We plan to have other weapons effects programs discussed by our laboratories but the agenda is not yet firm.

100 Megaton Bomb Development - Preliminary investigations now in progress, including underground nuclear tests, are aimed at developing basic techniques which will be applicable to weapons in the 10-100 MT range. As a specific objective, a target date of January 1, 1965, has been established beyond which time the AEC will be in a position to continue this device development

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through atmospheric testing, 90 days following receipt of notice. The current restriction against visible carriage of the ballistic shape designed to carry the very high yield test devices could delay the achievement of this readiness posture if it were to continue. However, there is in preparation within the Department of Defense a letter to the White House asking for relief from this restriction. The AEC has concurred in a draft of this letter.

Kwajalein and Christmas Islands - The AEC is not including Kwajalein or Christmas Island in its test readiness plans. Also, regarding DOD utilization, the following is quoted from Dr. Harold Brown's (Director of Defense Research and Engineering) letter of December 27, 1963, to Senator John Stennis, Chairman of the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the U. S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, "There are no plans to use these islands for nuclear tests. At most they would be used only as observation stations for small Radiological Safety monitoring and Weather Observation teams. Even this, in the case of Christmas, would require a new agreement with the British, which is not now contemplated."

AEC/DOD Nuclear Weapons Symposium - The Director, DMA appreciates the favorable comment on the annual AEC/DOD nuclear weapons symposium held at LASL in November, 1963. DMA plans to hold an annual symposium of this type.

(9) 88th GAC Meeting

The arrangements for this meeting are progressing smoothly and briefings and discussions will be arranged as requested by the Committee. Dr. McDaniel will provide the Committee with copies of the AEC Ad Hoc Committee Report on the LASL meson facility, prior to the meeting.

(10) 89th GAC Meeting

I understand that plans have been made for the Committee to meet with the Computer Advisory Council during the July meeting.

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Dr. L. R. Hafstad

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The Commission wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Benedict for his inspired and dedicated leadership of the Committee over the past two years.

Sincerely yours,

~~(S) [Signature]~~

Chairman

Dr. L. R. Hafstad, Chairman
General Advisory Committee
to the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

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