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M. W. Boyer, General Manager

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October 15, 1953
PWMcDaniel/psr/ags

P. W. McDaniel, Commission Member
CPC Subgroup of Scientific Advisers

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Original signed by
Paul W. McDaniel

U.K. INQUIRIES ON WEAPONS EFFECTS

R:DD:PWMcD

In the Commission meeting yesterday Mr. Strauss said that Lord Cherwell would probably ask what happened to a list of the questions on weapons effects which the British had lodged with the Commission in 1952.

I believe he was referring to questions submitted by the British (March 24, 1952) following a meeting with Cockcroft in Room 213 (West Building) on March 22, 1952. (This was one of a series of meetings in the Spring of '52 during which Cockcroft reviewed the British program to assist the Commission in determining whether several new areas of cooperation of interest to U.K. might be undertaken.) The U.K. submitted the weapons effects questions simultaneously to General Loper, then Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, who participated in the meeting, representing the Department of Defense. Those in attendance at the meeting and a summary of the discussions held are given in Appendix "E" to AEC 190/78. (Attachment 1)

As indicated in Paragraph 5, Appendix "G" AEC 190/80 (Attachment 2) the Director, Division of Military Application, suggested that the Division of Biology and Medicine determine which of the U.K. questions could be answered under Area 2 (Health and Safety) of the Technical Cooperation Program. At a meeting on May 29, 1952, the Divisions of Biology and Medicine and Military Application agreed that they would try to prepare answers to the questions; a copy of the minutes of that meeting is attached. (Attachment 3) It soon became evident, however, that no real constructive classified answers could be given under the existing Technical Cooperation Program and that special processing under the Section 10 Amendment would have to be undertaken. On this basis, the Division of Military Application prepared a preliminary draft staff study intended to cover this special field. This and other efforts with respect to other possible new fields of cooperation with the U.K. became confused by the Commission's general conclusion that U.K. security could not be certified to be comparable to U.S. security. With respect to the weapons effects questions, therefore, it was generally agreed, although not documented here, that it was futile to try to arrange for cooperation with the U.K. because the Commission could not certify as to the adequacy of U.K. security. (See, for example, Dean's testimony before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, April 17, 1953.) Accordingly, all efforts to process this staff paper (and others then in preliminary draft form) were abandoned in late 1952. I have orally advised the British of this

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circumstance. Mr. Dean also made the point about U.K. security to U.K. representatives from time to time.

It is relevant to note in this connection that Dr. Bugher and I are currently considering the feasibility of a U.S./U.K./Canadian conference on Biological Effects of Atomic Weapons at Brookhaven about February 1954. Many of the same questions submitted in 1952, have been proposed by the U.K. for the agenda of this conference. I believe Dr. Bugher and I are agreed (and the U.K. has been informally advised) that the feasibility of discussing many of these questions on a classified (and fruitful) basis under the Technical Cooperation Program is quite remote. The British have been advised also that some of the questions appear to be of primary interest to the Military and would, therefore, not appear suitable for discussion at such a conference. I will keep the Commission informed of our plans for this conference.

Attachments: 1. Appendix "E" of AEC 190/78
2. Appendix "G" of AEC 190/80
3. cc "Minutes of May 29, 1952 Meeting..."

2A - Dr. Bugher, B & M, w/o attachments ✓

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