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311th AEC
Meeting
10-6-49
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4. Test Program

General McCormack reviewed the progress of planning 1951 tests, particularly the planning for organization of task force. The staff of the commanding general, Lt. Gen. will be an integrated one, with Deputies for Operations, Logistics, Security and Intelligence, Scientific Matters, etc. the present planning stage has been completed, it appears generally advantageous for the AEC Scientific Director to be designated General Quesada's Deputy for Scientific Matters. General McCormack recommended that, when the movement of the task force overseas commences, the Deputy for Scientific Matters, who will be Dr. Alvin Graves, be designated the senior representative of the Commission. An organization scheme along these lines was being drafted by the Joint Proof-test Committee and would be submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to the Commission for approval in the next four to six weeks.

Mr. Lillenthal pointed out the grave questions of managerial responsibility that would be raised should a contract employee be designated as the Commission's representative for the tests. During the discussion that followed, Dr. Graves expressed the opinion that it would be a mistake to take any action which would undermine the position of the Commission's Scientific Director in the task force as a whole. It was recalled that General Froman, AEC Scientific Director with Joint Task Force 7, had recommended strongly at the conclusion of the previous tests that the position of the Scientific Director in any future task force be strengthened. It was agreed that decision on this matter be deferred until the recommendations of the Joint Proof-test Committee have been received formally.

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General McCormack recalled that there had been some discussion with the Military Liaison Committee in the previous week. The staff's present estimate calls for approximately 25 to 26 million dollars from the 1949, 1950, and 1951 budgets. Part of this would be capital investment for future tests.

* With regard to test of the Fox weapon prior to the 1951 tests, on which the Commission had requested a recommendation, General McCormack said that he personally favored such a test and believed it could be carried out in the coming spring. In response to a question from Mr. Dean, Dr. Graves outlined the experiments and measurements which would be made during a test. He said that no extensive organization, funds, or personnel would be required, but that careful preparation would be necessary to permit proper evaluation of the test results. General McCormack pointed out that there was some pressure for too simple and too short a test. Mr. Lilienthal suggested that a succinct statement be prepared analyzing the purpose of a test of the Fox weapon and the measurements which would be necessary to achieve that purpose. After discussion, the Commission:

REQUESTED that a statement be prepared concerning the proposed objective of an early test of the Fox weapon and the preparations and measurements which would be required for the test.

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