

REPOSITORY NARA College Park

CONFIDENTIAL COLLECTION RG 226-195-58 Secretary's Files

COPY NO. 22

July 22, 1953

ECX No. 189 (NN3-326-93-010)

FOLDER ORML6-ACC-MLC MAs

3 Agenda Vol 2

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION - MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF EIGHTY-FIRST CONFERENCE

409207

May 28, 1953

The conference convened at 2:00 p.m., with the following persons present:

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Henry D. Smyth

Robert LeBaron

M. W. Boyer
Walter J. Williams
Harold L. Price

Maj. Gen. James E. Briggs
Maj. Gen. Howard G. Bunker
Brig. Gen. Harry McK. Roper
Rear Adm. George C. Wright
Capt. James S. Russell (USN)

Philip J. Farley
Charles A. Perry

Brig. Gen. A. R. Luedecke
(AFSWP)

Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Gerard Smith
Capt. Harry H. Haight (USN)
Lt. Col. Paul M. Butman
J. Robert Barlow

Col. Orin S. Richardson
Col. Donald G. Williams
Lt. Col. John A. Geddes
Lt. Col. Morris L. Shoss
Lt. Col. Harold L. Whitten

1. Declassification of Certain Information on Gaseous Diffusion Plants

Mr. Smyth referred to the exchange of correspondence between the AEC and MLC concerning the declassification of certain information on gaseous diffusion plants. In the AEC reply of May 27 to the MLC memorandum of April 21, the Commission reaffirmed the view that the proposed declassification will not adversely affect the common defense and security and stated its intention to carry out the declassification.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

This information is classified as [redacted] because it is information the disclosure of which is [redacted] the national defense, the atomic energy program, or the health, safety, or interest of the community.
Sec. 1.9 and 1.4, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OG
Carroll 1/30/84
REVIEWED BY DATE
Jose Diaz 8/5/85
By: W. Trench 3/20/86

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

General Luedecke pointed out that, although he had seen the AEC reply of May 27, the members of the MLC had not yet had the opportunity to read it. He reviewed for those present the MLC and AEC positions with regard to the proposed declassification. The MLC believes, as previously stated, that the declassification of the arrangement and number of stages in the gaseous diffusion plants will make available to other nations information valuable in computing production rates. Mr. Boyer pointed out that, in addition to the fact that the information to be declassified is of minimum sensitivity, the proposed declassification will eliminate approximately 40,000 personnel clearances in the construction of gaseous diffusion plants. This would result in the earlier completion of the plants and thus materially aid in meeting the stockpile goal as well as effecting a saving in money.

General Bunker suggested that the information in question be declassified under the Atomic Energy Act and classified as Restricted under Title 18. This procedure, while eliminating the necessity of "Q" clearing construction workers, would prevent the installations from being photographed. Mr. Price reviewed the reasons why, under the Atomic Energy Act, the procedure proposed by General Bunker is not possible. Mr. Williams added that administrative control of access to the plants will prevent photographs from being taken.

General Luedecke stated his concern lest such declassification, justified as it is on grounds of economy, set a precedent for a step-by-step declassification which will in toto reveal really sensitive data.

Mr. Smyth replied that the Commission does not envisage such a wholesale declassification and he reiterated that the

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

sensitivity of the information is almost nil and great savings in time and money would result from its declassification.

2. Fall-out Resulting from Recent Nevada Tests

General Roper said that General Cooney, upon returning from a recent test, had voiced the opinion that AEC is making a serious mistake in over-emphasizing the effects of fall-out resulting from recent tests. General Cooney felt that the precautions taken by AEC were extreme and caused undue public concern. The Commission discussed with the MLC established criteria for maximum permissible radiation doses and the application of these criteria in the Nevada test series. General Fields said that the AEC operates on the principle that it has no right to subject the public to the radiation permitted for its own employees.

Mr. LeBaron said that the AEC and DOD must avoid arousing public fears to the point of large-scale public opposition to the continental tests. Mr. Smyth said that, in the opinion of the AEC, the present program emphasizes the extreme care taken by the AEC in avoiding hazard to the public. This is believed to be the best way to create confidence and allay public fear.

3. CASTLE

General Fields outlined the CASTLE program as presently conceived and said that final decisions on the make-up of the test program should probably be deferred until September of this year.

4. Date of Next AEC-MLC Conference

June 25 was set as the date of the next meeting.

PHILIP J. FARLEY,
Acting Secretary,
Atomic Energy Commission.

ORIN S. RICHARDSON,
Colonel, U.S.A.F.
Executive Secretary,
Military Liaison Committee