

~~SECRET INFORMATION~~

AEC 485/2

R

November 16, 1951

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AEC 485/2

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

UTILIZATION OF FACILITIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - LETTER FROM THE MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretary

1. Attached for the information of the Commission is a letter from the Chairman of the MLC amplifying his letter of October 31 (AEC 485/1) in reply to the Commission's letter of October 13 (AEC 485).

2. The attachment has been referred to the Division of Military Application for necessary action.

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ROY B. SNAPP=  
Secretary

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Copy No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 1/ Series AEC-A

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

November 14, 1951

Dear Mr. Dean:

Reference is made to your letter of 18 October 1951 on the utilization of the Department of Defense facilities to assist the Atomic Energy Commission in the conducting of its weapons program. In amplification of my reply dated 31 October 1951, I wish to report that the Department of Defense is in accord with your proposal for the initial phase and has nominated as its representatives to initiate discussion and conduct a joint study the following officers:

- Colonel A.W. Betts, USA
- Captain T.A. Ahroon, USN
- Colonel C.F. Damberg, USAF
- Colonel C.F. Ball, USAF (MLC)

The officers that I nominate above were carefully selected on the basis of their general, technical and atomic energy experience. They will not be the specific representatives of their respective services, but are considered the best qualified and available officers to compile the listings we both desire. In this connection, it is stressed that the members of this group are to compile information for further action and are not in a position or authorized to make commitments. While essentially a fact finding board, I visualize that their report should contain appropriate comments and recommendations and mention should be made of associated problems such as natural cleavage points in weapons design.

At a joint meeting on 7 November of the Commission, the Under Secretary of the USAF, and the Assistant Secretaries of the Army and Navy, an area of agreement was reached as to the status and operations of this group. As I understand it, the joint group is to ascertain and record insofar as practicable for our mutual benefit:

- a. The nature and scope of programs and specific tasks on which military assistance is contemplated by the Atomic Energy Commission.
- b. The many facilities and talents within the three military Departments which are technically suitable and which might be made available to render assistance desired by the Commission.

In addition to the information or data desired above, I believe it would be helpful for the group to develop the facts concerning the tasks currently being undertaken by the military

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for the Atomic Energy Commission and the procedures which are used in accomplishing them.

I suggest that the joint group submit an interim report to our respective organizations as soon as practicable which would outline their findings, comments and recommendations to date as well as their projected course for future action. I suggest that Colonel Ball, Weapons Division, Military Liaison Committee, act as coordinator and secretary for the meetings and the compilation of the joint report. The group has already met informally and plans to get an interim report out by 21 November.

Sincerely yours,

Robert LeEaron  
Chairman

Honorable Gordon Dean  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
1901 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

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