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37th AEC-MLC Meeting 9/28/49 ts

5. 1951 Testing Activities

Admiral Hill presented a summary of cost estimates relating to the atomic weapons tests scheduled for 1951. He emphasized that these cost estimates have not yet been passed upon by the Joint Proof-Test Committee and were submitted to give an indication of the trend in costs. The estimates total approximately \$50,000,000. In its last meeting, the MLC had formally expressed the view that this cost estimate, compared with costs of previous tests, appeared inordinately high. Mr. Lilienthal suggested that the MLC might wish to supply a copy of its action to the Commission. General Nichols suggested that it might be appropriate now to reconsider the use, after the 1951 tests, of a continental test site, with a view to eliminating the necessity for permanent construction at Eniwetok. General McCormack expressed his understanding that only some \$2,000,000 out of \$12,000,000 for construction would be saved by preparing for a single test instead of for a series of future tests. (At this point Mr. Webster left the meeting).



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