

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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COLLECTION AEC Minutes (NN3-326-92-006) MEETING NO. 184

By ST/ARM Date 3MAY48

BOX No. 2

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FOLDER: Vol 2+3 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 8, 1948

Present

Also Present

David E. Lillenthal
Sumner T. Pike
Lewis L. Strauss
W. W. Waymack

Morse Salisbury
John Gingrich
Eric Nicol
James B. Fisk
Col. D. J. Keirn
Lt. Col. K. E. Fields
Capt. James S. Russell, USN
Walter J. Williams
A. A. Wells
J. A. Derry
William C. Trueheart
Dr. Ellis Johnson
Dr. W. D. Urry
Bennett Boskey
Brig. Gen. M. R. Nelson
Capt. Robert E. Smith

Carroll L. Wilson
Adrian S. Fisher
Joseph Volpe, Jr.

Roy B. Snapp
Philip J. Farley

1ST REVIEW DATE	6/8/48
AUTHORITY	3008
NAME	Mr. Johnson
2ND REVIEW DATE	8/10/48
AUTHORITY	ADD
NAME	WCH/ARM
DATE	8/10/48
NAME	Boosey
DATE	8/10/48

1. Clearance of Dr. Edward U. Condon

The Chairman proposed that, as a preliminary step to action to be taken in the case of Dr. Edward U. Condon at a later meeting, the Commission should now consider the scope of the issues presented by the case in the light of the voluminous record which the Commission had examined. He stated that Dr. Condon, as Director of the National Bureau of Standards, is an official appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and responsible to the Secretary of Commerce. The occasion for the reinvestigation of Dr. Condon under the Atomic Energy Act has been the fact that the Bureau of Standards has continued to perform certain rather limited types of work for the Commission, and this work is necessarily supervised by Dr. Condon as Director of the Bureau. The

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AUTHOR: [Signature]
BY R. E. [Signature] 3/28/90

161

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The Chairman raised the question of the nature of the public statement to be made on the case when Commission action had been completed. He suggested that, rather than merely a press release, it might be preferable to publish a Commission minute, setting forth the Commission's decision.

After further discussion of the case, the Commission:

- a. DEFERRED ACTION on the case of Dr. Condon; and
- b. INSTRUCTED the Office of the General Counsel to coordinate the preparation of a draft minute, which would embody the views expressed by the members of the Commission at the meeting, and which would be considered by the Commission subsequently as a basis for the formal action to be taken in the case.

At this point Messrs. Nicol, Boskey, Fisk, Gingrich, and Salisbury left the meeting and Mr. Williams and Captain Russell entered.

2. AEC 81/1 - Duplication of Hanford Production Facilities

Under consideration was a report (AEC 81/1) by the Director of Production concerning the desirability of providing facilities in addition to the Hanford Engineer Works for the production of plutonium and polonium. After discussion of questions raised by the report, the Commission:

- a. REQUESTED that AEC 81/1 be revised in the light of the discussion at the meeting and resubmitted; and
- b. REQUESTED that the draft letter to the Joint Committee (Appendix "A") be revised to set forth more fully the considerations bearing on the problem and the Commission decision.

At this point Mr. Williams and Captain Russell left the meeting and Doctor Ellis Johnson, Doctor Urry, General Nelson, Captain Smith, Colonel Keirn, Lt. Col. Fields, and Messrs. Derry and Trueheart entered the meeting.

3. Oral Report on Long-Range Detection During Operation SANDSTONE

Doctor Ellis Johnson (Technical Director, Special Weapons Group No. 1, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel, Headquarters, United States Air Force) presented an oral report on long-range detection

in advance of the next meeting of the full C-3, to discuss the question of the relevance of recent information on the atomic energy activities of the United Kingdom to the future relationship of the United States and the United Kingdom, particularly in connection with technical cooperation. At this meeting Mr. Lilienthal had presented the information brought back by Doctors Zinn, Weil, and Wende regarding the objectives of the United Kingdom atomic energy program, for the consideration of the representatives of the Department of State and the National Military Establishment. Under Secretary of State Lovett had stated that the assumptions of the State Department at the time of the tripartite arrangements on January 7, 1948, were not inconsistent with the United Kingdom interest in the production of plutonium and the development of atomic weapons, of which the Department of State had been informed by the U. K. on March 19, 1948. Mr. Lovett had referred also to the strategic studies of the Joint Chiefs of Staff