

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 825

2:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 25, 1953

Present

Gordon Dean
Henry D. Smyth
Thomas E. Murray
Eugene M. Zuckert

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

Roy B. Snapp
Charles A. Ferry

Also Present

Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Morse Salisbury
John A. Waters
Rodney L. Southwick
Shelby Thompson
Lt. Col. Raymond P. Campbell
Capt. William L. Guthrie, (USN)
Neil J. Carothers

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

DELETED

~~SECRET~~
BY AUTHORITY OF L M. Safford
BY R. Anders DATE 4/14/79

AEC 487/36 - Information Plan for Observer Shot -- Operation
UPSHOT

Mr. Salisbury referred to Paragraph 6 of the paper under dis-
cussion. This paragraph points out the differences between this draft
and the information plan for TUMBLER-SNAPPER. It is contemplated

that sponsorship of live broadcasts and telecasts would be permitted subject to mutually agreeable arrangement on the type of sponsorship, commercial copy, etc. Sponsorship of the telecast in this open shot is recommended on representation of the networks that it would enable them to give wider and better audience coverage to promote the FCDA program. Sponsorship would be handled as follows. There would be a meeting of representatives of various networks with AEC and FCDA to establish ground rules for sponsorship and each network would subsequently submit to AEC a list of proposed sponsors. AEC would then determine the suitability of the sponsors. Mr. Zuckert suggested that the sponsorship proposal should first be cleared with the White House Press Secretary. Mr. Salisbury said that he would take the matter up with Mr. Hagerty and if the White House indicated objection he would discuss the matter with the Commission further.

During a discussion of the proposal to declassify the estimated yield of the device detonated and to issue this estimate at a pre-shot briefing, Mr. Zuckert said he was concerned over the fact that by detonating a lower yield device than was used last year at the open shot, the public might underestimate the destructive potentialities of an atomic blast. Mr. Murray said that he too was concerned over this problem but that this is primarily FCDA's problem and that they have not indicated that they are concerned over the fact that the yield will be 15 kilotons.

Mr. Salisbury said that in order to dramatize the FCDA effects test, it was desirable to allow press correspondents and photographers in the forward area prior to the shot to take pictures of the buildings and vehicles in that area. They would then return after the detonation and view the same structures. This, however, presents problems of security. Mr. Tyler feels that any pictures taken in the forward area might disclose the type of measuring test devices used, and for this reason would prefer not to have the photographers in this area. Mr. Salisbury suggested that measuring devices could be covered up and that photographers could be restricted in the use of telephoto lenses and in the positions from which they might take pictures. And in addition, if it were necessary, censorship of the photographs could be imposed. A discussion of the public relations and press relations problems which might arise if photographers were not allowed in the forward area and the possible damage it might do the FCDA program followed. Mr. Salisbury proposed a compromise plan which he submitted to the Commission in the form of a draft revision of Paragraph

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6 e. Under this plan the Test Manager and the Coordinator of Information would survey the forward area and determine from what positions pictures could be made of the test structures and equipment that would include no classified objects. They would then determine whether photographers and correspondents would be allowed in the forward area and under what conditions, imposing censorship if necessary. The Commission after discussing this proposed revision:

AGREED that within the boundaries of security of information, still and motion picture photography and live television transmission is desirable to report that civil defense phases of the test, and that provisions for this should be worked out by the Test Manager and the Coordinator of Information.

Mr. Salisbury pointed out that the DOD wished to permit correspondents to accompany the troops into the forward area and that if they went as far forward as the troops they might exceed the maximum exposure limits established by the AEC. Mr. Smyth indicated that if the DOD wished to accept full responsibility for these correspondents the Commission would have no objection. The correspondents should be accredited correspondents in the same sense as war correspondents and the number should be limited so as not to interfere with AEC operations.

A discussion of Appendix "A" to the paper followed. It was pointed out that the Information Coordinator should be responsible to the Test Manager and not to the Commission and that Paragraph b, Appendix "A" should be so revised. Paragraph D(4) should provide that censorship might be required if so determined by the Test Manager and Coordinator of Information in accordance with Paragraph 6 e as revised. Paragraph J (3) should be revised to be consistent with Paragraph 6 e of the paper and Paragraph N (1) should be revised so as to be consistent with Paragraph 6 f of the paper. After further discussion, the Commission:

a. NOTED that Paragraph 6 e and 6 f of AEC 487/36 and Paragraphs B, D4, J3 and N1 of Appendix "A" to AEC 487/36 would be revised in accordance with the discussion at the Meeting;

b. APPROVED, subject to a above, the information plan attached as Appendix "A" and annex thereto, to AEC 487/36; and

c. NOTED that the agenda for briefing observers and a detailed itinerary for their tours on-site will be submitted for Commission's information.

Roy B. Snapp
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: April 23, 1953