

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING No. 868

2:30 p.m., Monday, May 25, 1953

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Present

Gordon Dean  
Henry D. Smyth  
Eugene M. Zuckert

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

Harold D. Anamosa  
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

L. R. Hafstad  
James K. Pickard  
W. L. Davidson  
George F. Trowbridge  
Gerard Smith  
J. Robert Barlow

DELETED

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

~~OR CHANGED TO~~

BY AUTHORITY OF M. L. S. [Signature]  
BY R. Anderson DATE 4/14/79

1. Problems in Shifting Eleventh Shot to the Pacific Proving Grounds  
(See AEC 487/55 and minutes of Meeting 863)

Mr. Dean said he had spoken to Mr. Strauss on the subject of the request to the President for allocation of fissionable material for the proposed eleventh shot. Mr. Strauss had expressed concern that the effects of so large a detonation might be severe and had indicated that he would like to have more information concerning delays which would result if the test were transferred to the Pacific Proving Ground. The Commission:

REQUESTED that the staff prepare a report on estimates of the time which would be lost if the eleventh test in the current series were held at the Pacific Proving Grounds.

DELETED

Harold D. Anamosa  
Acting Secretary

Approved by the Commission: June 26, 1953

# DEAN DIARY

May 22nd continued

Strauss that we had a problem and that we just wanted to know how to play it. Smyth said Davidson is going out to Ohio -- it seemed the best thing to do. Dean asked if they started screaming and Smyth said Yes. I will fill you in on the background. Dean stated it is a tough chore for Davidson but I am glad he is going to do it.

Dr. Smyth talked to GD re: desirability of the formality of getting letter to Pres. and getting it approved. Stated Zuckert very unhappy over it in terms of public relations (re: 11th shot). Dean stated yield is so important we will have to ahead, we just have to take a chance. Obviously will have to be careful on the weather. The alternative would be go to Eniwetok and Smyth stated yes/ Smyth asked, on formality, if it is desirably to get to the President on Saturday what would be the state of your health? Dean stated unless you need me I really do not feel like going. Smyth stated he thought Monday would be alright. Dean stated for planning purposes tell Los Alamos "go ahead".

May 25, 1953

Commission meeting 10:30.

Commission meeting 2:30 in preparation for Joint Committee meeting on 5/26/53 re: power, policy presentation.

GD and Faulkner had an appointment with General Edgerton of the Import-Export Bank at 4:00 p.m.

Jules Eanet came in to see GD at 5:00.

Doctor Merwin Kelly (AT&T) called GD for appointment re: step they are taking in the new administration. Appointment set for 4:30 Wednesday.

Gleason of NSC called GD and stated Cutler had given him GD's memo. on "IVY" film and Cutler is anxious to show to Pres. and Cabinet. Propose to show it at the White House at 5:30 and would like some lengthier description of film and how long is it? Dean stated it took 1½ hours. Gleason stated 5:30 may be a little late - maybe move it up to 5:00. Dean stated he suggested to Cutler the NSC but the Cabinet would be alright. It is TS - very hot. Gleason stated would like page or so of description and then he could give it to the President. I could do it but not as well as your people as to content of film. Could you do that? Dean stated sure.

Fields called GD from Mercury - message about shot. Everything went off very well. From looks the fall out problem very minor. GD stated fine - news account said

*UAC*

May 25th continued

there was a lot of dust. Fields stated not much to do with fall out. Particles were much smaller than in other areas, only the finest stuff collected. GD asked if it went near St. George and Fields stated did not go near there. Dean asked if the Utah Congressman flew out with him. Fields said yes and that Stringfellow was going on to Ogden tomorrow. He got what he wanted and I think he will be very helpful to us. The yield looks a little better than what we had predicted. GD said the ticker says 15. Fields stated it is something on that order. Everything is going well. Session with Tyler and Graves went off extremely well. Questions I believe were answered in good shape. I understand the Pres. is the one at the White House. LeBaron has not gotten DoD answer. He rode out with Wilson but did not get answer. Wilson wanted to see this one today and I heard he said it was very effective. Dean said I think the only way to play it is to say may have additional shot later. Fields stated after looking things over here I think we should go ahead with this. He did say something on what it would cost if go to Eniwetok and I hope that does not get into the discussions. Dean stated more essential to make a strong case here. Fields said there is no reason not to do it out here, it would be useful to get information here. Dean stated we may not be able to tell you before your news conference. I would say this concludes our present series. We may have another this spring. Fields stated we might we say we might be in a position to go ahead Saturday or Sunday. To which GD replied with newspapermen you could get into trouble with that. Fields said we could say we are considering another which may be added immediately. Dean stated I would not say that. If you say "almost immediately" you are in trouble. Fields stated would like an official observer, do it with almost no schedule - do it on that basis. Dean stated if we get any information we will tell you. Fields stated I will be coming back this afternoon. I think the Congressmen are well taken care of. Dean asked if they were coming back soon and Fields stated this afternoon

Strauss telephoned the following message for GD at 4:20p.m.  
not

"Assuming that it will/take as long as I was told to set the test up for the picnic grounds and that the maximum delay would be of the order say of a month and a half, would it not be better to accept that rather than run the risk of a situation which might make all future continental tests impossible?"

May 26, 1953

Strauss called GD and stated did you get message I dictated, to which GD replied yes. Strauss stated I just had the feeling that possibly the ultimate result from this may make -- GD stated I think on evaluation you will find this less risky than ones we have shot before because of the energy release. Some of the others have sucked up from the ground -- I have talked to Fields on possible delay and will put it into a memo. Strauss stated no that makes it too formal. Dean stated two months would be too late. One reason is radio chemical and also on certain types of aircraft which cannot be flown there. Strauss commented I see what you mean. Dean said they are specially rigged up. Another is the Edgerton, Germeshausen & Grier, Inc. who do our technical work. Strauss asked how far up in the air will you do this? Dean stated it will be over 1000 ft. Strauss asked higher than any you have done? Dean stated it is higher than some. We have shot one considerably higher. Strauss asked you would not want to do this one that way and Dean replied it is a question of where they can get their readings. Strauss said I will get it to him (Pres.) and get an answer if

(signature)

May 26th continued

I can. Strauss asked then re: meeting with Joint Committee this afternoon on power. Dean stated there is some difference between us in our estimate as to what will be the effect on permitting industry to come in. NSC thinks industry will in and put up money for prototypes -- we think differently. Strauss said the thing for him to do is to ask men for industry to come in. Dean stated this is an executive meeting. Strauss then asked what were you planning to put in the memo? Would you say it would cost a great deal more? Dean replied oh it will double the price if you give it that priority. It would be 50 thousand against 750,000 thousand. Strauss remarked that much. You might write the memo but I will not wait for it (had to go to NY because of death in family) Knowing that it will be coming I will go ahead and try to get an answer before I leave.

Commission met with Bennet and Bateman of Canada at 11:30.

12:45 buffet luncheon for British Security visitors, British Ministry of Supply. William Dale Wilkinson, Undersecretary; Charles Stanley Goad, Assist. Secretary; Cyril Reginald Frank Lark; and Lt. Col. Edward Martin Furnival Jones.

Bengt Kjellgren, Pres. The Brush Beryllium Company of Cleveland came in to see GD. Re: Coming visit of Dr. Baba and Dr. Bhatnagar of India.

The Commissioners and GM met in Executive Session at 2:30 with the Joint Committee. Re: Industrial power - proposed legislation.

May 27th, 1953

John Hightower (AP), request of Salisbury, came in to see GD at 10:00.

Presidential approval for 11th shot given today.

GD went to NSC meeting at 11:15 re: Armaments and American Policy.

At 12:30 GD met Will Shafroth and Henry Kaltenbach (Gen. Counsel of National Production, for lunch at the Willard Hotel.

Dr. Oppenheimer came in to see GD at 2:30.

Cong. Robert L. Condon came in to see GD at 3:00. (From California)

Dr. Rabi came in to see GD at 3:45.

Dr. Merwin Kelley of Bell Lab came in to see GD at 4:30. Wanted to talk over a steep they are taking in the new Administration.

*W. C.*

May 27th continued

Dean called Salisbury and stated that in meeting this morning the President expressed some concern, not too serious, but made the suggestion that we leave "thermonuclear" out of press releases and speeches. Also "fusion" and "hydrogen". If something comes up and we want to use it we can get clearance from Cutler. The President says "keep them confused as to 'fission' and 'fusion'". Salisbury asked if we should get that message out to the field offices. GD stated he did not think necessary since they do not make many speeches. Salisbury suggested that it be brought up in Boyer's Monday morning meeting with the division chiefs.

James Bennett called GD and stated he was going up to see the Rosenbergs and that he would like to know the facts in case he could get some information from them. Stated he would chat with them and then come back and report. Dean stated you should have technical or FBI people with you. Bennett stated he was afraid if he did they would clamp up.

Dean called Roland Anderson (head of Patent Division) and stated he just had Kelly of Bell Lab - the top man in their program, operates out of New York, Quarles is under Kelly - in his office and that they have this antitrust suit, which does not concern you, and they also have a patent question. Sometime back, in '39 or '40, a memo was prepared by Shockley and Jim Fisk (now on GAC). They were attempted to find out if they could build a reactor to produce plutonium and that they just about hit in on the nose. They made patent application on these things. Anderson stated the appear was turned down. We declassified this about six months ago. The Board of Examiners denied the patent on grounds of insufficient information. Appeals could be taken to the courts. Dean remarked what he offered was this. Do not think they want it on their hands and they would be perfectly willing to sign it over to the government. Would that help? Anderson stated it might get us under the three year rule rather than the six year rule. Dean stated a man named Ralph Brown (?) will call you. He is vice president in charge of all research. Anderson stated he knew him and would make a note of it.

May 28, 1953

GD in New York today. Seeing Knopf at 12:00.

May 29, 1953

GD in New York today. Appointment with Ben Sonneberg at 12:30

Secretary of Congressman Riley of South Carolina called and said that Mr. Byron Wehm of Williston had called to say that 300 of the families in Savannah River Project had been asked to vacate their homes by June 8th. He asked the Congressman if the length of time in which to vacate could not be extended. The Congressman asked if anything could be done about the situation.

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