

Tuesday, January 2, 1962 - D. C. Office

I presided over Information Meeting 99 (notes attached). Commissioner Olson told us that he plans to resign as a Commissioner on March 18 (the expiration of his term is June 30) in order to re-enter private practice. This, of course, raises the problem of a replacement with the prospect that JCAE members, members of the Executive branch and others will have candidates, not necessarily good ones; it will be best to have a good candidate ready to suggest, probably a lawyer from industry or government.

Dr. Gerald Johnson met with Lee Haworth and me following the Information Meeting. He said that, following discussions with Drs. Libby and Dunham, he wants to appoint a small ad hoc committee to study the long-term effects of a nuclear attack, in particular those of fission product isotopes like Sr-90 and Cs-137. The studies would include total effects on the ecology as well as those directly affecting humans. Paul Tompkins has been suggested as chairman, with a Britisher, named Scott Russell, and possibly another member of the AEC Division of Biology & Medicine as the other two members. In this connection, I also mentioned the AEC's plan to set up a permanent working group to evaluate the biological effects of nuclear attacks; this was motivated in part by our need to obtain information for our annual Net Evaluation studies. I mentioned to Johnson that Gilpatric had called me about the need to expedite the release of weapons information to West

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Germany in connection with NATO and indicated that we were proceeding as fast as we could. I said, however, that our determination of an answer was complicated by the question of security of information on the two-stage devices and also by our questions as to the political desirability of placing such weapons in the hands of West Germany.

I received a letter from Harold Brown giving DOD views on types of weapons requirements for future years; they want emphasis on new concepts.

At 2:30 p.m. I was interviewed by George Wilson of Aviation Week, <sup>Copy attached</sup> for an article on nuclear testing that will appear in next week's issue. He wanted to know why more information had not been released to the general public on the results of the Russian tests. I said we had released as much as we were sure of, and that as more certain information was developed it would probably be released. He then asked a number of questions about the need for testing and I gave answers which he assured me were for background or off the record use. I pointed out to him the especial importance of the question as to whether the Russians will test again with respect to the President's decision as to whether to resume atmospheric testing.

(copy attached)  
I received a letter from Sir Roger Makins regarding agreements reached by our staffs for testing a U.K. device at NTS.

I sent a letter to Dean Rusk (copy attached) re the matter of the U.K. testing a device at NTS.



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