have been fully and currently advised as to deletions or additions in the galleys. The galley references noted herein are to the galley proofs supplied to MLC on July 20. We are attaching herewith a complete set of these galleys, with all latest changes.

It is noted that the ten specific reservations listed in your July 20 letter are the same as those given us late on July 19 in the form of a memorandum from General Nichols to the Military Liaison Committee, which points could not be reconciled at staff levels. The Commission's comments on these ten items follow.

No. 1 - The number of technical workers in the two laboratories referred to in earlier drafts has been previously deleted by Commission staff. (Galley No. 4)

No. 2 - References to agreement with South Africa and to thorium recovery from gold dredging operations had been previously removed by Commission staff, (Galley No. 4). The reference to the tripling of ore production in the Colorado area has also been deleted.

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July 21, 1950 MLC
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Mr. William Webster

No. 3 - References to deterioration in reactors, which was covered in the Commission's Fifth Report, were replaced by the statement that the management at Hanford had succeeded in extending the useful life of the reactors. (Galley No. 5)

The reference to plutonium production has been changed in accordance with the views of the Director of Production and of General Nichols, and now relates to efficiency of production and not quantity. We do not concur, however, in your objection to the statement that production of fissionable materials is at an all time high.

No. 4 - The change suggested in the description of the reactor program has been made on the basis of other considerations than those set forth in your letter.

No. 5 - In the section on accountability systems, your reference to "possible points of weakness" is not clear, but it apparently indicates the paragraph on Galley No. 47 under the subhead, "Testing during continuous operation." This paragraph, which also contains the reference to X-25, to which you objected, has been substantially revised to remove the references to any specific plant or any specific type of material. In this section of the report, certain other deletions have been made of references which you may have had in mind. (Galley Nos. 47 and 48)

No. 6 - The reference to "bomb effects as distinguished from the effects on individuals," is not clear, but all of the examples cited have been deleted (Galley 23). These relate to the size of the crater at Bikini, two references to the tolerance time in the surrounding area, and the statement that "biological studies have begun to outweigh in importance those concerned only with explosive force." This statement was not a "finding," but related only to recurveys of biological effects several years after the tests.

No. 7 - On the matter of plutonium toxicity, at least four research papers on plutonium poisoning and its treatment have been declassified. The information developed in this research is considered of vital importance to medical science and was found to be declassifiable under the Guide. Its possible value to a potential enemy could not be considered as justification for withholding either from the medical profession or the general public of information of such great significance to the morale of the facilities and associates of atomic energy workers on a subject of possible national concern in certain eventualities.

No. 8 - The question of beryllium poisoning is of great concern in certain industries and the need for even more information is urgent. Under these conditions this information should not be withheld because of its possible value to a potential enemy. As indicated in the text of the report, Atomic Energy workers not in atomic energy activities have suffered from beryllium poisoning and the dissemination of information as to its treatment is very important.

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No. 9 - As your letter states, "detailed" discussion of radioactive wastes are "primarily" of interest to atomic energy workers, but the general public and particularly people living near AEC installations, are quite properly interested in and perhaps concerned about the measures taken by the Commission to assure safe handling of waste materials and to prevent their release in any quantities which might be even remotely harmful. The Commission feels that the importance of information as to the tendency of certain living organisms to concentrate radioactivity makes it necessary to include the references to this matter.

The plutonium references in your item 9 have been deleted from the report, as has the reference to the proposed special report on radioactive wastes. (See Galleys 22 and 23)

No. 10 - In view of the importance to the public of information as to progress toward more effective control of radioactive hazards, the Commission believes that the references to improved methods of waste handling should remain in the report.

In addition to these ten items, we have been advised through Commander Rogers of the MLC staff that General Nichols objects to the publication in the Sixth Report of the material on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which was presented before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in public hearings by Dr. Shields Warren, Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC. We are advised that the objection is not based on the content of the statement by Dr. Warren, but upon the premise that such material should not be included in the report because of the status of the proposed Weapons Effects Handbook.

We do not feel that any unclassified and publishable information in this field should wait upon publication of the Handbook. It is noted that the material assembled by Dr. Warren is largely a digest of information previously published in USSBS Reports, in MED Reports of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in the booklet, "What You Should Know About the Atomic Bomb," published last year by the Surgeon General of the Army, and in medical and scientific journals. In view of the need for such information, as expressed, among other places, in the Hopley Report, we do not believe the suggested deletion relayed by Commander Rogers should be made.

We understand that the MLC has no security objection to the issuance of the Sixth Report to Congress and have accordingly made arrangements for the printing of the Report.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

David E. Lilienthal
Chairman

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July 21, 1949

Dear Mr. Webster:

Your letter of July 1 containing the specific security objections of NSC on the drafts of the Commission's Sixth Semiannual Report was of great assistance since it enabled us to make an immediate check of the points in question and to take appropriate action.

We note your statement that the deletions or changes suggested in your letter would, if accepted by the Commission, "eliminate specific objections to publication of this report on the basis of security." We interpret this as meaning that NSC has no further security comment on the Sixth Report, except for the reservation mentioned in your memorandum of July 15.

Throughout the period of eight weeks in which the several drafts of the Sixth Report have been in process of review, the comments of NSC staff members and others in NSC have been acted upon, either by deletion or editorial changes which effectively removed the basis of objection. We recognize, of course, that the material recently added to the report has complicated the review procedure to some extent, with the result that the representatives of NSC reviewing the material may not have been fully and currently advised as to deletions or editorial changes. The galley references cited herein refer to the galley proofs supplied to NSC on July [illegible]. We are mailing you a complete set of these galleys, with all latest changes.

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in the Commission's Fifth Report, were replaced by the successor

management at Hanford has succeeded in extending the

reactors. In this connection, the Commission believes it quite important

that the American people understand that these quality examiners do not have

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to "possible [illegible]

the paragraph under the subhead, "Testing during continuous operation." This paragraph, which also contains the reference to A-5, to which you objected, has been substantially revised to remove the reference to any

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specific plant or any specific type of material. In this section of the report, certain other deletions have been made which may be covered by your reference. (see galley Nos. 47 and 48)

No. 6 - The reference to "bomb effects as distinguished from the effects on individuals," is not clear, but the examples cited have all been deleted (Galley 21). These relate to the size of the crater at Alamagordo, two references to the tolerance time in the surrounding area, and the statement that "biological studies have begun to outweigh in importance those concerned only with explosive force." This statement was not a "finding," but related only to resurveys of biological effects several years after the tests.

No. 7 - On the matter of plutonium toxicity, at least four research papers on plutonium poisoning and its treatment have been declassified. The information developed in this research is considered of vital importance to medical science and was found to be declassifiable under the Guide. This information is not restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act and its possible use to a potential enemy could not be considered as justification for the withholding either from the medical profession or the general public of information of such great significance in the morale of families and associates of atomic energy workers on a subject of possible national concern in certain eventualities.

No. 8 - The question of beryllium poisoning is of great concern

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in certain industries and the need for even more information is urgent. Under these conditions this information cannot be withheld because of its possible value to a potential enemy. As indicated in the text of the report, American workers not in atomic energy activities have suffered from beryllium poisoning and the information as to its treatment is not considered restricted data, nor should it be withheld on grounds of military security.

No. 9 - As your letter states, "detailed" discussion of radioactive wastes are "primarily" of interest to atomic energy workers, but the general public and particularly people living near AEC installations, are quite properly interested in the measures taken by the Commission to assure safe handling of waste materials and to prevent their release in any quantities which might be even remotely harmful. It is important that the public be informed as to the tendency of certain living organisms to concentrate radioactivity, therefore, since no mention is made of security, nor of possible aid to a potential enemy, your recommendation for deletion of this information cannot be accepted.

The plutonium references in your item 9 have been deleted from the report, as has the reference to the proposed special report on radioactive wastes. (See Gallays 22 & 23)

No. 10 - In the absence of any reference to security or possible aid to an enemy, and in view of the importance of this type of information

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a field in which wider knowledge may lead directly to increased knowledge, especially in view of the number of institutions which may have radioactive wastes resulting from the use of isotopes.

In addition to these ten items, we have been advised through Commander Rogers of the MLC staff that the Committee objects to the publication in the Sixth Report of the material on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which was presented before the Joint Committee in public hearings by Dr. Shields Warren, Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC. We are advised that the objection is not based on the content of the statement by Dr. Warren, but upon the premise that such material should not be included in the Report because of the status of the proposed Weapons Effects Handbook.

We do not feel that any unclassified and publishable information in this field should be withheld because of the handbook. It is noted that the material assembled by Dr. Warren is largely a digest of information previously published in USSBS reports, in MED reports, of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in the booklet, "What You Should Know About the Atomic Bomb," published last year by the Surgeon General of the Army. In view of the need for such information, as expressed, among other places, in the Hopley Report, we want to advise you that the suggested deletion relayed by Commander Rogers cannot be accepted. Info should be withheld

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of any comment or guidance thus far received by the Commission from [illegible]. This, of course, makes it impossible for us to proceed on any basis which might bring about full concurrence of MLC. If, upon review of our action on the ten items in your letter, MLC is able to state that it has no security objection to the Report, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

If, on the other hand, you still desire to register some reservations on the part of the MLC, it is suggested that the Secretary of Defense be informed in order that a decision may be reached on this matter without delay.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

David E. Lilienthal
Chairman

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the Committee has reservations as indicated below, it will interpose no formal objection to the publication of the report on the basis of security, as authorized in Sec. 2(c) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946."

In accordance with subsequent conversations suggesting that we indicate in greater detail the nature of the reservations, particularly insofar as they pertain to the Sixth Semiannual Report, we have studied the report further and list below suggested deletions or changes in the report which, if accepted by the Atomic Energy Commission, would eliminate specific objections to publication of this report on the basis of security. Although many of these changes and suggested deletions do not as individual items represent violations of security, it is felt that the combination of this information with other information within the report and that previously published would fall in the category of reservations indicated in paragraph 2 of our memorandum of 15 July 1949.

Specific comments are as follows:

1. "Military Application," Page 1. Number of technical workers at both laboratories contrasted with beginning of 1947 indicates comparative size of effort and if repeatedly given would assist in keeping a potential enemy informed of the status of our over-all effort in the atomic weapon field.

2. "Raw Materials," Pages 3 and 4. Information pertaining to status of agreement with South Africa, potential thorium production in connection with gold dredging operations, and tripling of ore production in Colorado region combined with previous information on ore keeps a potential enemy informed of our current status in procurement of ore.

3. "Production of Plutonium," Pages 6, 7, 8. Reference is made on Page 6 and again on Page 8 that production of plutonium is at

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discussions pertaining to [illegible] to Atomic Energy Commission contractors and employees who can be given all the necessary information in a classified form. In particular, no reference should be made to a more complete report on this subject prior to a more thorough discussion with the Military Liaison Committee concerning the advisability of covering this subject in greater detail. Reference on Page 48 to concentration of radioactivity by animals, plants, fish, or algae, and reference on Page 49 to plutonium are considered in the category of information that should be deleted.

10. "Improved Waste Handling, Pages 51, 52. In view of the fact that Commission contractors are the only ones primarily interested in how to dispose of radioactive wastes and this information could be given in a classified form, it is considered that possible improved methods of handling these wastes, as treated under "Biological Treatment of Wastes," on Pages 51 and 52, should be deleted.

Very truly yours,

Wm. Webster
Chairman

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