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COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

MAY 10 1949

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OSD ATSD(AE) DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW BOARD COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OSD, THE AIR FORCE, ARMY AND NAVY HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS DOCUMENT BEING DECLASSIFIED.

SUBJECT: Radiological Warfare Program Status Report of the Joint AEC-NME Panel dated 10 January 1949

TO: Chairman, Research and Development Board, Room 3E-600, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

1. On 7 April 1949 the Committee on Atomic Energy considered the Radiological Warfare Program Status Report of the Joint AEC-NME Panel, dated 10 January 1949.

2. The Committee on Atomic Energy approved the recommendations in the Report of the Joint Panel dated 10 January 1949 and the following recommendations pertaining thereto:

a. With reference to Recommendation A of the Joint Panel Report that studies of the use of aerosols and the use of radiological warfare agents for sabotage against personnel be limited at present to the laboratory phase, the Committee on Atomic Energy approved this recommendation with the understanding that the laboratory work will definitely not interfere with the current development of a means of disseminating gamma emitters in the time specified. The Committee on Atomic Energy has requested that the Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, bring this to the attention of interested agencies within the National Military Establishment.

b. With reference to Recommendation B concerning mechanisms for evaluating new ideas, the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, has recommended to the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, that the Military Liaison Committee and the Atomic Energy Commission accomplish the evaluation of new and unique ideas in accordance with existing procedures.

c. With reference to Recommendation C concerning separation of fission products, the Military Liaison Committee has requested the Atomic Energy Commission to keep the National Military Establishment informed as to the progress of the Atomic Energy Commission program.

d. With reference to Recommendation D the Committee on Atomic Energy has requested the Department of the Army to submit recommendations on initial field testing facilities.

OSD ATSD(AE) DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW BOARD
DECLASSIFIED BY: C. B. [Signature]
DECLASSIFIED ON: 25 MARCH 1994
IAW EQ 12356

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1. CLASSIFICATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
3. AUTHORITY AND DATE CLASSIFIED INFO
4. AUTHORITY AND DATE DECLASSIFIED
5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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e. With reference to Recommendation E on declassification, the National Military Establishment has approved the Radiological Warfare Section of the Classification Guide, including several changes suggested by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Military Liaison Committee and the Atomic Energy Commission are resolving this matter.

f. With reference to Recommendation G the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, has recommended to the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, that the present Panel continue in existence until after the review of the entire program in the Fall of 1949, but that any member of the Panel be released at his own request and replaced by a substitute acceptable to the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Military Establishment.

3. The Committee on Atomic Energy is of the opinion that, from the point of view of research and development, the most critical problem is to determine whether or not an effective means of dispersal of radioactive agents can be developed to provide a useful military weapon. It was generally felt that it would be unwise to expend large sums on the research and development of radiological warfare prior to such determination.

4. The Committee on Atomic Energy recommends that the Research and Development Board:

a. Approve the recommendations of the Joint AEC-NME Panel Report of 10 January 1949 and so advise the Secretary of Defense; the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission; and the Chairman of the Joint Panel.

b. Approve the action of the Committee on Atomic Energy in implementing the Panel's recommendations.

c. Advise the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission that from the point of view of research and development, the most critical problem is to determine whether or not a means of dispersal of radiological warfare agents can be developed to provide a useful military weapon.

Incls.:

1. CAR Motion, 7 Apr 49
- ✓ 2. Ltr MLC to AEC w/incl.
3. Ltr CAE to Chf AFSWP
- ✓ 4. Ltr CAE to Dept/Army
5. Draft ltrs:
 - a. RDB to AEC
 - b. RDB to Sec Def

65/
Hm. Webster,
Chairman

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~