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LRL INTEREST IN U-233

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W. K. Woods

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LRL INTEREST IN U-233

February 10, 1966

By:

W. K. Woods

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LRL INTEREST IN U-233

I visited the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Livermore on February 3 and met with the following people.

Nuclear Design (Rosengren)

Joseph K. Landauer - Staff Assistant to the Associate Director
Jim Frank - Group Head in A Division (Herbst)
Jack Ingley - physicist reporting to Frank
Larry Germaine - Group Head in B Division (McDonald)
Shell Shuster - physicist reporting to Germaine

Military Applications (Haussmann)

Forest Fairbrother - Staff Assistant to the Associate Director

Support (Sewell)

Ward Miller - Leader of Special Materials Division
Earl Crooks - Leader of Engineering Division

U-233 has been shown to be highly satisfactory as a weapons material; however, it has substantial technical advantage over plutonium only in certain environments, and the probability of such environments being encountered is quite low. LRL is quick to point out that conditions are subject to change and reappraisal, but as of today, they have no plans for developing weapons systems using U-233.

The statement was made that if today's weapons were based upon U-233, LRL would have no interest in switching to plutonium.

Although LRL is interested in the availability of research and development quantities of clean U-233 (10-20 kgs per year), there is no basis at this time for Hanford to anticipate the development of a large production program involving U-233.

W. K. Woods

W. K. Woods, Consulting Engineer
Advanced Concepts and Planning Group

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