

Authority
 NND 952170
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 NARA Date 1/27/88



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This document consists of
 2 pages, Number 5 of
 10 copies, Series A.

September 3, 1958

File
 N-16
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY

FROM: S/AE - Philip J. Farley

SUBJECT: Atomic Weapons Cooperation with the United Kingdom

As a first step in implementing our new agreement with the United Kingdom for cooperation on the uses of atomic energy for mutual defense purposes, experts met in Washington August 27, 28 and 29, and agreed upon an initial exchange of atomic weapons design and development information to be recommended. The principal representatives were: for the United States, Dr. Willard F. Libby, Atomic Energy Commission, and General Herbert B. Loper, Department of Defense; for the United Kingdom, Sir Frederick Brundrett, Ministry of Defense, and Sir William Preece, atomic energy authority. Mr. Courtney of this office participated for the State Department.

On the basis of requirements and the present status of their technology which were indicated by the United Kingdom representatives, the United States representatives agreed to recommend to the President a favorable finding on the transmission of certain information now held by us or expected soon to be obtained. (The Atomic Energy Act requires that the President determine that the proposed cooperation and communication of Restricted Data is necessary to improve the recipient nation's atomic weapons design, development, or fabrication capability, and that it will promote and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to the common defense and security. It is anticipated that the President will approve the favorable recommendation of the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defense in this case.) The design and other relevant information to be communicated relates principally to specific categories of warheads for use in propelled bombs, ICBMs, anti-missile missiles, anti-aircraft missiles, tactical bombs, anti-submarine weapons, ground-to-ground missiles and gun shells.

It also appeared that the United States might well benefit from the receipt from the United Kingdom of certain information generally pertinent to the above categories of weapons, as well as theoretical and design information on neutron sources, high explosive, mechanical, and electrical components of weapons, and design of small gun-type weapons. It was agreed that the United States delegation would also recommend full discussion of these subjects.

Assuming a favorable determination is made by the President, the next step will be a meeting of technical experts of the two countries at the Sandia Laboratory, Albuquerque, New Mexico, beginning September 15, 1958.

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It is believed that the meeting was very successful and effectively carried out the President's wish to begin implementation of our agreement to cooperate with the United Kingdom in this field. The favorable recommendation by the United States representatives was greatly facilitated by the revelation by the United Kingdom representatives of the advanced state of their technology—it was plain that they had succeeded in developing considerable knowledge comparable to our own. It is anticipated that further useful exchanges of more general developmental information, with resulting more efficient utilization of talent and resources, will also follow.

S/AE:RFCourtney:rvw

cc: ENA - Mr. Dale

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