ADWD-17

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LAMD-375

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FAMILY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Eighteenth Meeting
August 3, 1950

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A. Attendance.

The eighteenth meeting of the Family Committee was held Thursday, August 3, 1950 at 1:15 PM in Room B-117. Those present were:

N. E. Bradbury	M. G. Holloway
J. C. Clark	E. R. Jette
F. de Hoffmann	D. P. MacDougall
E. Fermi	J. C. Mark
D. K. Froman	R. F. Taschek
A. C. Graves	E. Teller, Chairman
D. B. Hall	

B. Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting.

The Committee unanimously adopted the minutes of the Seventeenth meeting, reported in ADWD-163.

C. Thermonuclear Test Program.

Graves reported that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have suggested that they would be able to support an operation at Eniwetok in the Spring of '51. They have requested, however, that such a program be carried out with as little military support as feasible, including, for instance, the immediate relocation of the construction batallion at Eniwetok. In view of this, Graves presented a possible test program for discussion to the Committee:

1. Three-shot program at Eniwetok in the Spring of '51.

2. Instrumented air drop as soon as feasible.

   Probably after Summer 1951.
   Instrumentation to be bhang meter, transit time, alpha, radiochemistry, photographic yield.

DOE b(

3. [redacted]

4. Press now for continental site.

   a. Nevada
   b. Site X.

   Site X is to be a site essentially where one can shoot a thermonuclear gadget essentially unrestricted in size.

DOE b(1)

Considerable discussion ensued concerning this proposal and especially the thermonuclear phases of special relevance to the work of the Committee. [redacted]

DO b(

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DOE b(3)

It was the feeling of all those present that it would be advisable to have a firm target date for a thermonuclear test so that the program within the Laboratory could be carried on with confidence.

DOE b(3)

Bradbury then outlined a possible test program with more firm dates in mind, which would still permit flexibility of operation. He emphasized that this was not a firm proposal but simply an idea put forth in order to sharpen up the discussion. Such a program would consist of the following three steps.

1. Two-shot program. April '51.

   DOE b(3)

   HOW' on tower.

2. Two-shot program at Nevada. August '51.

   DOE b(3)

   DOE b(3)

3. Site X. August '52.

   DOE b(3)

The program presented by Bradbury does not eliminate air drops but prepares for them by having appropriate measurements taken on the tower shots, if these turn out to be possible. Taschek and Hall reported that they believed P Division personnel felt strongly that at least one thermonuclear shot of some kind should be fired in 1951, to test the experimental setup and to determine the amount of DT burned. Worry was expressed concerning permission to use the Nevada site and the circumstance that in the case of an adverse decision on the Nevada site, no thermonuclear weapon would be tested in 1951. Bradbury proposed that the booster might become a third shot at Eniwetok in such a case. Clark pointed out that it might be possible to activate Site X for a single shot in the Summer of '51. Further discussion centered on the thermonuclear aspects of the test program concerning which the Committee wanted to go on record with an immediate statement. The following statement was voted upon and approved unanimously by the Committee:

The Committee noted the framework within which recommendations concerning thermonuclear tests have to be made. In particular, it is understood that in view of the shipping and safeguarding situation concerning Eniwetok, it is not realistic to plan on more than three shots at Eniwetok in the Spring of '51. DOE b(3)

[It is understood that the logistics and building problem would be considerably decreased if it were planned to perform full-scale DINEX and X-RAY experiments requiring a 200-ft. tower and the Limonite shielding column on only one of the three shots. In view of these limitations and in view of the minimum necessities of the thermonuclear program at Los Alamos, the Committee requests:

I. That a thermonuclear test shot be fired in the Spring or Summer of 1951.

II. That Site X be activated and ready for a test shot not later than the Summer of 1952.

D. Super Calculations.

de Hoffmann reported on some calculations which Teller, Frank Hoyt, the Evanses and he were undertaking.]

DOE b(3)

DOE b(3)

[redacted] DOE b(3)

E. Booster.

Mark reported that since his report at the Seventeenth meeting, further delays had occurred in the calculation and that it must now be expected that the booster design will not be completed until somtime in September, 1950, rather than the previous August 1950 date hoped for. Hope was expressed that this will be a final date.

F. [redacted] DOE (3)

Hammel would appreciate comments from anyone interested in this problem.

G. Next Meeting.

The next meeting is to take place on August 5. 1950. at 1:15 PM in Room B-117.

[redacted] DOE b(3) In addition to those present at the Eighteenth meeting, John Wheeler is to be invited.

Frederic de Hoffmann

Executive Secretary

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FIG. 1

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Figure 2

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