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LAMD-420

FAMILY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Twenty-Third Meeting
September 21, 1950

ADWD-194

SAA20006988 0000

A. Attendance.

The twenty-third meeting of the Family Committee was held Thursday, September 21, 1950 at 1:15 PM in Room B-117. Those present were

F. de Hoffmann	M. G. Holloway
D. K. Froman	E. R. Jette
R. Garwin	D. P. MacDougall
R. W. Goranson	E. Teller, Chairman
A. C. Graves	

B. Minutes.

The Committee unanimously adopted the minutes of the 22nd meeting reported in ADWD-187 with the following correction:

"On page 1, item D, replace the word kev in the 7th line of this paragraph by ev."

C. Booster.

Teller reported that the IBM calculations were now completed and are being evaluated. There is every reason to believe that the November 1st deadline can be made. Jette again expressed himself as hoping that the results would be available even before this deadline since the time for fabrication of the booster and other parts for the Spring tests was getting very short.

D. He^3 Content of TD.

DOE b(3)

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DOE b(3)

It was agreed that even if the tritium mixture were allowed to sit around for two months and He^3 would accumulate, this would not greatly effect the nuclear portion of the tests. In any case, air shipment seems advantageous.

DOE b(3)

DOE b(3)

This is not a very important consideration. GMX and W Divisions should determine the most convenient shape.

DOE b(3)

It was agreed that the main portion of the implosion design should be frozen at the Family meeting of October 5, 1950. Prior to that time, GMX and W Divisions will have prepared a summary of the relevant features of design.

DOE b(3)

In line with the question raised at the 22nd meeting (see minutes of 22nd meeting, item E), Garwin and Goranson reported on the present design.

DOE b(3)

DOE b(3)

I. Tests.

The Committee noted the memorandum from Graves to Teller dated September 11, 1950 concerning the Spring Tests. (This memorandum is attached as Appendix A to these minutes).

DOE b(3)

It was noted that while there could be a set of circumstanced which made this desirable from the thermonuclear point of view, such a fourth shot would necessarily have to compete with the requirements of the entire laboratory program and it was hoped that the entire test program could be discussed as an integral whole at a forthcoming Tech Board.

Graves reported that there was a possibility of making tower tests at Eniwetok in the Fall of '51. The group took note of this fact

with pleasure and unanimously went on record as follows:

DOE b(3)

J. Next Meeting.

There will be no meeting on September 28th. There will be a meeting on October 5th. The principle subject for discussion at the October 5th meeting is to be the specifications for the cylinder.

Frederic de Hoffmann

Executive Secretary

Distribution:

1A	N. E. Bradbury	25A	E. Teller
2A	W. C. Bright	26A	" "
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10A	E. R. Jette	34A	" "
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19A	H. C. Paxton	43A	W. E. Ogle
20A	F. Reines	44A	E. Teller
21A	" "	45A	" "
22A	" "	46A	" "
23A	A. R. Sayer	47A	" "
24A	R. F. Taschek	48A	" "

Edward Teller
Assistant Director for Weapon Development

LAB-J-1307
11 September 1950

Alvin C. Graves

MINUTES OF 18th MEETING OF THE FAMILY COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 AUGUST 1950
Ref: ADWD-172
Symbol: SD-3285

The minutes of the 18th meeting of the Family Committee give, in my opinion, an erroneous impression of the sense of that meeting. I refer specifically to the paragraph at the top of Page 3 of the reference document which states in part "...it is not realistic to plan on more than three shots at Eniwetok in the Spring of '51.

DOE b(3)

J-Division has placed no such limitations on shots at Eniwetok in the Spring of 1951.

DOE b(3)

With the above limitations we retain the possibility of firing shots on Engebi, Eberiru, and Runit, to construct a tower on Aomon after the Eberiru detonation for a fourth shot, and to make an additional air drop if this is desirable from the Laboratory point of view and if the air-drop instrumentation proves adequate on prior tower shots.

As an indication that the Laboratory is not being limited to three shots in the Spring of 1951, I quote from a teletype to General McCormack from Darol Froman of 9 August 1950: "...Laboratory agrees that adequate tests can be conducted with activation of only three repeat three test sites. This agreement based upon assumption number of tests need not repeat not necessarily be restricted to three but that way will be left open for later decision on utilizing Aomon site twice and later decision on carrying out one or more drops of proof test character..."

If plans of the Family Committee have been influenced by a misunderstanding of J-Division's limitations of the Spring 1951 program, I hope you will inform the Family Committee of the above corrections to the reference document.

Alvin C. Graves
J-Division Leader

ACG:MM