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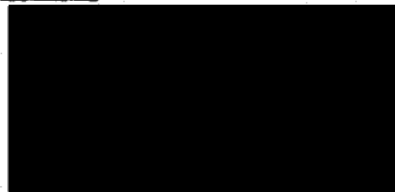
29 Oct 1957



COPIE NO
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**THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE ATOMIC WEAPONS TESTS
SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT 339 SWANSTON STREET,
MELBOURNE, AT 9.30 A.M. ON 29TH OCTOBER, 1957**

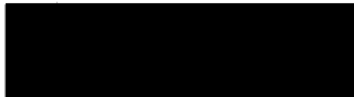
PRESENT:



Chairman
Bureau of Meteorology
C.K.R.L.
Cancer Institute Board

FO
DEC

PRESENT FOR ONLY THE LATTER PART OF THE MEETING:



A.W.R.E.
A.W.R.E.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

The minutes of the 29th meeting were formally confirmed. They had been distributed early in September. The minutes of the 26th, 27th, and 28th meetings which related to the actual tests of the Antler series, were formally confirmed. The minutes of the 29th meeting were confirmed. These had been discussed by [redacted] and [redacted] on the 17th October. They are concerned solely with post Antler inter-trials health physics.

2. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

(a) Health Physics at Maralinga during inter-trials period

This has figured as Item 6 of the Minutes of the 23rd meeting, as Item 3 (b) of the 25th meeting, while the whole of the 29th meeting was devoted to its final clarification. The subsequent discussion on the 17th October based on the minutes of this meeting, [redacted] represented A.W.R.E. and [redacted] represented A.W.T.S.C., produced a submission to the Maralinga Board of Management. This is carried as Appendix A of these minutes, and was accepted by the Board as an amendment to its earlier minutes. The A.W.T.S.C. formally acknowledges the principles agreed upon and so recorded.

(b) Transport costs of members of Commonwealth Departments

The Secretary was asked at the 25th meeting (Item 10) to enquire of the Department of Supply if that Department would defray transport costs of members of the Committee who were also officers of the Commonwealth. A reply was received from that Department agreeing in this instance to arrange transport for all members with the understanding that costs incurred by those members in question would be borne by their Departments.

2.

[REDACTED]

(e) Constitution of A.W.T.S.C.

The Secretary reported that [REDACTED] has been formally included in the membership of the A.W.T.S.C. The original instrument did not require revision for this addition. The matter was first discussed as Item 4 of the minutes of the 25th meeting.

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3. FALLOUT STATIONS FOR OPERATION DURING IMMEDIATE LITER TRIALS PERIOD

FOR DECL

The Secretary outlined arrangements that had been made with [REDACTED] of the Bureau of Meteorology and [REDACTED] W. [REDACTED] for the handling, maintenance and storage of the fallout monitoring equipment used during the recent test series. However, this will require revision since with the advent in the near future of the Grapple X series of tests at Christmas Island, sampling at a network of fallout stations detailed as Appendix B, is to be implemented as early in November as possible. Operation will continue until the requirement demands that the programme be revised. It was drawn to the attention of the Committee by [REDACTED] that the U.K. authorities were ignorant of Australian fallout sampling arrangements during Grapple X. The Secretary was requested to inform UKDCS(A) of the proposed organization but later it was decided to inform the U.K. scientific authorities directly.

Action
Chairman
Secretary

4. 90hr SURVEYS IN AUSTRALIA

The A.W.T.S.C. have been asked through its Secretary to give an opinion as to the bodies responsible for the collection of bones, herbage, milk, and soil for 90hr assessment in the surveys carried out in May/June and August/September of this year. The Committee considers that it is scientifically responsible for all such official surveys carried out in this country including those in the immediate past as well as in the future. It would be pleased to have relevant enquiries directed to it through its Secretary. It was thought that the corresponding financial responsibility must reside with the appropriate Commonwealth authorities. It is apparent that a considerable fraction of the overall cost of this programme is incurred in carrying out the radio-chemical analysis of the samples in the U.K.; the U.K. Government will meet this cost. The Committee stressed the value of the contribution from A.W.R.E. Aldermaston in this regard.

Action
Secretary

5. PASTORAL LEASE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVES

A letter from the Premier of Western Australia to the Prime Minister dated 30th September, 1957 requesting advice on the inconvenience to Australian defence authorities of a proposed pastoral lease in Western Australia was referred to the A.W.T.S.C. for comment. The leasing of the area defined by the coordinates latitude 24° and 26°S and longitude 127° and 129°E would not in the opinion of the Committee inconvenience activities at Murling to any marked degree.

Action
Secretary

[REDACTED]

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3.

6. FALLOUT DATA DURING INTER-TRIALS PERIODS

The Chairman tabled a letter from [redacted] International Geophysical Year Committee, regarding the Australian National Committee for the I.G.Y. requests for details of fallout measurements made in Australia. This question has been discussed previously by the A.W.F.S.C. as Item 6 of the minutes of the 29th meeting, 4/23rd meeting, and 3(a)/25th meeting. An I.G.Y. Sub-Committee has been set up consisting of [redacted] and [redacted], but their exact programme has not yet been finalized. [redacted] indicated that some confusion existed on the question of the release of Australian fallout data to the I.G.Y. Committee. The A.W.F.S.C. considered that fallout data could be made available to the I.G.Y. Committee for those periods of measurement when the significance of the data did not demand restriction of its circulation. It was decided to provide the Committee for the I.G.Y. with the results of measurements from July 1st to the end of 1957, omitting data relating to the Antler series, but the information would not be available until March, 1958.

Action
ChairmanFOR
DECLASS**7. EAST COAST PATROL DURING ANTLER SERIES**

The results of the East Coast Dakota flight requested by the A.W.F.S.C. for Rounds 2 and 3 of the Antler series were tabled. It was apparent from the measurements that in both cases the environment traversed by the flight showed very low activity. The Committee expressed its gratitude for the cooperation of the R.A.A.F. in providing this service.

Action
Secretary**8. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES IN STRATOSPHERIC MONITORING PROGRAMME**

Acopy of the cable from the Australian Embassy, Washington, was referred by the Department of Supply to the Committee for comment. The preliminary proposal to cooperate on a high altitude monitoring programme had been discussed at an earlier meeting and its opinion was recorded as Item 9 of the Minutes of the 24th meeting. The Committee reaffirmed its opinion and again stressed that the programme would be acceptable only if the United States provided all facilities, equipment etc. free of cost.

Action
Chairman**9. REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE ANTLER SERIES**

The Chairman circulated a draft of this report. It was fully discussed during the meeting. The Secretary was requested to provide at the next meeting a possible final form of the document allowing provision for the incorporation of the signatures of the members. Similarly [redacted] agreed to table copies of the figures and [redacted] copies of the fallout measurements for the series.

Action
Mr. Dwyer
Mr. Stevens
Secretary**10. PAPERS FOR PUBLICATION****(a) Radioactive Fallout in Australia from Operation Moses**

This paper had been completed by the Committee whilst attending the Antler series and then submitted to the Australian Journal of Science for publication. The Committee was informed that the paper had been accepted in its entirety for publication in the December issue. This should be available in mid-January; 300 reprints have been ordered [redacted]

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(b)

Discussion of the paper has occurred previously, refer to the minutes of the 25th meeting, Item 1 (a), 24/6(a), 23/8, 20/1, and 19/1. The Chairman informed the Committee that [redacted] intends to seek publication of his paper. The content of the paper is now in a form acceptable to the security requirements. It is intended to seek publication of an accompanying paper prepared by the A.W.T.S.C. in the same issue of the Journal in an endeavour to elucidate the scientific shortcomings of [redacted] paper.

Action
Chairman
Secretary

11. DISCUSSION WITH [redacted](1) Blood counting at Maralinga

The Chairman outlined a telephone conversation he had had with [redacted] regarding the desirability of blood counting of all personnel who intend to spend more than a week at Maralinga. The Secretary indicated that the Board of Management had discussed the matter and referred it to the A.W.T.S.C. for comment. The purpose of such an examination was two-fold and as Item 47 of the Board of Management minutes reads:-

- (a) To disqualify from visiting the range any person whose blood counts showed abnormalities.
- (b) In the event of a claim alleging illness or other damage due to radiation effects being lodged by a person who may have visited or worked at Maralinga for a week or longer, a record would be available upon which the Australian or U.K. Government may base a case. [redacted] agreed with this expression of the proposal and the A.W.T.S.C. accepted the principle so stated. However, the Chairman pointed out that [redacted] had agreed to communicate to him the views expressed by the U.K. authorities.

(2) Radio Iodine Measurements on Thyroids collected by the R.D.U. during the Antler series

An interim report as presented by [redacted] has been attached to the minutes as Appendix D. The samples received had been extracted satisfactorily and counting had proceeded without difficulty except in the first instance when contaminated glass ware was suspected.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at 2.15 p.m. on Thursday, 14th November in the Conference Room, Physics Department, University of Melbourne.

[redacted]
Secretary

Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee

approved

[redacted]
CHAIRMAN