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September 8, 1955

AEC 670/10
COPY NO. 12

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

EMBARGO OF LITHIUM MATERIALS TO THE SOVIET BLOC

Note by the Secretary

The General Manager has requested that the attached report by the Director of Civilian Application be circulated for the information of the Commission.

W. B. McCOOL
Secretary

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

EMBARGO OF LITHIUM MATERIALS TO THE SOVIET BLOC

Report to the General Manager by the
Director of Civilian Application

1. At Meeting 1062 on February 23, 1955, after considering AEC 458/27 "Distribution and Control of ADP Tails", the Commission, among other things,

* * * * *

c. Determined that the following statement may be published without adversely affecting the common defense and security:

"Lithium has highly significant applications in atomic energy production processes and the embargo to the Soviet bloc of lithium metal, compounds, ores and concentrates is of great importance to the common defense and security of the free world."

d. Noted that the statement above would be transmitted to appropriate departments and agencies of the U. S. Government, through the AEC Member of the Economic Defense Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Export Policy, with the recommendation that action be initiated by the U. S. Government looking toward the institution by cooperating governments of effective export controls over these commodities vis-a-vis the Soviet bloc.

e. Noted that the two mechanisms for enforcing these export controls would be through the inclusion of lithium metal, compounds, ores and concentrates in the "Atomic Energy Annex" to International List I, and by the addition of these materials to Category B of the Battle Act Title I list.

* * * * *

2. Following receipt of informal assurances of support by British and Canadian Delegates to COCOM (a committee in Paris

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consisting of representatives of NATO nations and Japan) the U. S. Delegate was instructed by the Department of State to proceed with submittal of the U. S. proposal for embargo of lithium metal, compounds, ores and concentrates to the Soviet bloc. (See AEC 670/9)

3. The attached letter from Admiral W. S. DeLany, Deputy Director for Mutual Defense Assistance Control, International Cooperation Administration (Appendix), advises of acceptance by COCOM of lithium for addition to the International Atomic Energy (embargo) list and to the Battle Act, Title I Category B list. The COCOM action became effective July 20, 1955.

4. Although the Battle Act Title I list provides for discontinuing U. S. aid to countries exporting listed materials to Soviet bloc countries, the President, if circumstances warrant such action, may make an exception in the case of shipment to the Bloc of a Category B item.

5. Subsequent to receipt of the enclosed letter from Admiral DeLany the AEC was advised by copy of a Department of State telegram from Paris that the French Delegate, though accepting the lithium item as proposed, has suggested that the item be re-defined by adding the following: "except ores and concentrates with a lithium-element content below 5%".

6. The staff is considering the proposed redefinition. In the event it is concluded that the revised definition will adequately serve the security interests of the United States, the State Department will be informed that there is no AEC objection to the French redefinition proposal.

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A P P E N D I X

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 18, 1955

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Lyall Johnson
Atomic Energy Commission

FROM : W. S. DeLany
Deputy Director for
Mutual Defense Assistance Control

SUBJECT: Lithium

With reference to your memorandum of March 9, Amendment No. 7 to the Battle Act Lists, dated August 15, 1955, includes the following item, on the Title I, Category B List:

1634 - Lithium metal, compounds, ores and concentrates.

This action was taken by MDAC pursuant to the agreed Procedures for amending the Battle Act Lists in line with changes in the International Lists agreed by COCOM. The item in question has already been added to the COCOM Atomic Energy List.