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DIVISION OF REACTOR DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER PROPOSED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

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The various drafts of the proposed bilateral agreements for cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom and Canada have been read and studied with a great deal of interest.

Under these new agreements (if approved) the extent of our cooperation with the United Kingdom and Canada in the field of reactor technology is an order of magnitude ~~is~~ greater than previously. Further, the role of the Division of Reactor Development in implementing these agreements necessitates our assumption of many new responsibilities. The new agreements propose, among other things, mutual use of facilities, mutual use of consultants, exchange of special materials and the complete exchange of all technology pertaining to power and research reactors. Such an arrangement therefore in effect places the United Kingdom and Canada in the same position with respect to the AEC as any of our Reactor Development contractors or industrial study groups. (Actually they have a preferred position as compared to most of the study groups.)

If past performances are a mirror of the future, we can expect large numbers of U.K. and Canadian visitors, large use of our facilities by the United Kingdom and Canada and a determined effort on their part to obtain all that is possible of our technology.

In order to insure that the Commission and American industry obtain the fullest possible advantage out of this cooperation, I believe it to be imperative that we set up some organization or group whose function will be to currently and continually keep the Commission, its contractors and the interested segment of American industry informed of all technical developments pertaining to the United Kingdom and Canada's Power Reactor Program.

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In the past, I am afraid, we have given aid and assistance to the United Kingdom and Canada without exerting too much effort to learn exactly what the United Kingdom and Canada are doing. Even today, I would venture



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to say that most American industry and AEC contractors do not know much of the United Kingdom and Canadian programs over and above the data in "Britain's Atomic Factories" or that Chalk River's reactor had a major accident. Even when we have some information, it has not been made generally available. As a striking example of this, I mention the trip report of Admiral Rickover to the United Kingdom. Because the information he obtained was given in confidence (this I suppose means that it was classified), distribution of the information to study groups and laboratories has not been made.

The gist of this memo therefore is to urge that if we do enter into these bilateral agreements, the Division of Reactor Development should set up or recommend the establishment of a group whose sole function will be to help make the arrangements that will be necessary for the exchange of information, visits, transfer of material, etc. More important, this group should take the initiative in obtaining all information possible about United Kingdom and Canadian technology and then keeping AEC and cleared American industry completely informed. Perhaps a counterpart in the United Kingdom and Canada of the U.K. and Canadian scientific missions is the answer.

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