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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 3, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES T. LYNN
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEP*
SUBJECT: ERDA's request for FY 1976
Weapons Program Amendment

The President reviewed your memorandum of September 23 on the above subject and approved the following option:

"Allow ERDA to request a budget amendment of \$57 million"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Brent Scowcroft

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 2, 1975

MR PRESIDENT -

Staffing of the attached OMB memo re ERDA's request for FY 1976 Weapons Program Amendment resulted in the following:

Marsh and Friedersdorf concur in OMB recommendation.

Brent Scowcroft indicated in a memorandum to me, attached Tab A, that he supported the full amount for ERDA but that he could accept as minimum an increase of \$14 million. It should be noted that this proposal is not one of the options presented in Jim Lynn's memo to you.

Jim Connor



A

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~ - GDS

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT 

SUBJECT:

OMB Memo on ERDA's Request for an
FY 76 Weapons Program Amendment

As I noted in my earlier memo to Jim Lynn on this subject (), the Special Test Detection, R&D, and additional testing portions of ERDA's supplemental request are important from the standpoint of national security policy and I strongly recommend their approval.

I recognize, however, that the requested increase of \$57 million will have to be balanced against other programmatic needs and may be viewed as inconsistent with the President's effort to limit federal spending. Consequently, if absolutely necessary to meet overriding budgetary considerations, I would recommend an alternative, minimum funding increment of \$14 million.

This amount would include the full \$5 million requested for special test detection, which is critically important to monitoring the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT), and would also include \$9 million (roughly half the amount requested) to maintain ERDA's R&D effort. This amount would avoid further erosion in the advanced weapons R&D program, an area which has been seriously cut back as a result of more urgent DOD weaponization requirements and continuing inflation in salary costs at ERDA's privately managed weapons laboratories.

I would like to emphasize that I would consider this to be a minimum funding level, one which would still leave ERDA with a long-term problem of declining R&D activities; some additional restoration of funds to this area would be needed for the FY 77 budget.

~~SECRET~~ - GDS

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AUTHORITY DOC NUC-PHF-2-7-1-8 5/5/08
NSC guidelines
BY 11/17/09 NARA DATE 11/17/09

We share OMB's skepticism that any funds from the non-weapons part of ERDA's budget could be reprogrammed in order to reverse the decline in employment at the laboratories. Since the "other" part of ERDA's budget relates almost entirely to energy R&D, this suggestion seems contrary to the President's goal of speedy development of new energy sources.

I would also like to comment on the issue of salary inflation at ERDA's laboratories. Although ERDA has granted annual increases which are considerably higher than recent Civil Service increases, it should be noted that they have fallen behind private industry norms for scientific personnel (by more than five percent). If they fall further behind, there is some risk that they will begin to lose their most talented people, who are highly sought after in private industry. It seems clear that if we are to continue to enjoy the benefits of private versus Civil Service management of this vital area, we will have to be prepared to provide sufficient funds to enable ERDA to stay abreast of salary scales at private industry R&D centers.

WITHDRAWAL ID 09094

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL	National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL	Memorandum
CREATOR'S NAME	James Lynn
RECEIVER'S NAME	President
DESCRIPTION	ERDA's request for FY 1976 weapons program amendment
CREATION DATE	09/23/1975
VOLUME	3 pages
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID .	004700038
COLLECTION TITLE	PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE
BOX NUMBER	18
FOLDER TITLE	Finance - Budget: ERDA
DATE WITHDRAWN	01/12/1998
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST	WHM

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 09095

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL Letter
CREATOR'S NAME Robert Seamans
RECEIVER'S NAME James Lynn
DESCRIPTION budget amendment
CREATION DATE 09/1975?
VOLUME 2 pages
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 004700038
COLLECTION TITLE PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE
BOX NUMBER 18
FOLDER TITLE Finance - Budget: ERDA
DATE WITHDRAWN 01/12/1998
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST WHM

89096

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~ GDS

August 11, 1975

RECEIVED
AUG 15 3 42 PM '75
IMMEDIATE OFFICE
OF THE DIRECTOR
O.M.B.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

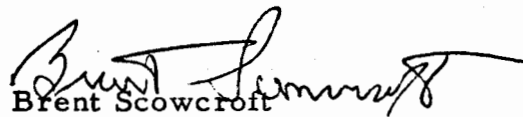
SUBJECT ERDA Supplemental Budget Request

I have received a briefing from ERDA on their supplemental budget request for FY 1976 and the Transition Quarter.

The Special Test Detection program is critically important to verification of compliance with the provisions of the Threshold Test Ban Treaty. Therefore, I strongly recommend that it be approved.

It is also important from the standpoint of national security policy to avoid erosion in ERDA laboratory levels. Recognizing the effects on laboratory levels of urgent weaponization projects related to the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, as well as the effects of inflation, I believe that the research and development proposal is well justified and I recommend that it be approved. For the same reasons, I believe the testing proposal is sound and I recommend approval.

It is my view that the national security implications of these three items taken together warrant submission of the supplemental request to the President for his decision on forwarding it to Congress.


Brent Scowcroft
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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~~SECRET~~ GDS

AUTHORITY RAC MF-PHF-2-7-2-7 5/5/08
BY 11 NARA, DATE 4/17/09
NSC guidelines

287-9



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

09097

26 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR LTG BRENT SCOWCROFT, USAF
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: ERDA Supplemental Budget

Secretary Schlesinger was briefed on 24 June 1975 on the ERDA 1976 request for a weapons budget supplemental by Dr. Seamans, LTG Starbird and MG Graves. This briefing is scheduled to be given to OMB Director Lynn and to you. Accordingly, I am forwarding Secretary Schlesinger's views with regard to the ERDA Supplemental Budget. The Secretary considers it essential that the nuclear laboratory effort in R&D and testing be protected and strongly supported the ERDA proposal to stabilize the laboratory effort in weaponization, advanced development, and supporting research at a level of 7600 people. He also stated a need for a continuing nuclear test effort of about 25-30 tests per year to support DOD initiatives. He felt that ERDA production capability must be maintained at its current high quality and productivity level but that there is some flexibility in the DOD requirements for deliveries of new weapons.

(W)

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
Major General, USA
Military Assistant



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AUTHORITY DOD Directive 5200.30

BY HR NARA, DATE 8/24/12

Classified by ATSD/AE

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE ~~SECRET~~
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED ~~SECRET~~
AT 20 YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31Dec83



SEC DEF CONTR No. X-18376-1976