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~~TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE~~

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1976

MEETING WITH SENATOR BAKER

Friday, May 7, 1976
9:15 a.m. (30 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: James E. Connor *JEL*

I. PURPOSE

To discuss nuclear safeguards situation with Senator Baker.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: You will recall that Senator Baker first raised the NUMEC issue with you several weeks ago. Since that time, at your direction, a number of steps have been undertaken to look further into the NUMEC case itself and to get underway a review and tightening of the ways in which we protect special nuclear materials.

Senator Baker and Senator Pastore had requested this meeting in order to assure themselves that both the Executive and Legislative Branches were working closely together on this extremely sensitive matter. Senator Pastore unfortunately is not able to be here today, but asked Senator Baker to represent both of them.

Cooperation at the staff level between George Murphy, Staff Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and White House and other Executive Agency staff has been excellent, and there are no outstanding issues.

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E.O. 12958 . SEC. 3.5

WH *Handwritten*
MR 04-99 #10. DOE *Handwritten* 7/15/07

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del NARA DATE 7/29/08

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BACKGROUND(Continued)

During the meeting you might wish to:

...draw Senator Baker out on what information, if any, he might have that we do not.

...review with him the steps you have directed to be undertaken.

...get his assessment of other possible Congressional inquiries in this area, particularly by Congressman Dingell.

...thank him for the extremely discrete way in which he has dealt with this subject and reassure him of your desire for continued close cooperation with the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

B. Participants: Senator Baker, George Murphy, Staff Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Jack Marsh and Jim Connor.

C. Press Plan: No announcement - David Kennerly photo only.

III. TALKING POINTS:

1. Howard, it has now been about four weeks or so since you mentioned this matter to me. A lot of work has taken place on our side, and I understand that you and Senator Pastore, along with George Murphy, have been working hard at it on your side.
2. Are there any things which you have learned which you think might be helpful for me to know?
3. We have taken two immediate steps here that I think are important.

First, I directed that a major review be made of the ways in which we safeguard special nuclear materials. I understand the first draft of this material will be coming in



about mid-May. You can be sure that we will look at it carefully and satisfy ourselves that we have made the kinds of changes that will ensure that events which may have happened at NUMEC 10 years ago cannot be repeated. I know the Joint Committee has an equally strong interest in the matter, and I am sure that when specific proposals come before you that we will be able to work closely to implement them quickly and effectively.

Second, I instructed the Attorney General to look into the matter from the viewpoint of the Justice Department and the FBI. I understand the FBI has begun an inquiry and that we should have results from that relatively soon.

4. Have you learned any more about these hearings by Congressman Dingell? Is it likely that this issue will be dragged up there?

5. Howard, you know as well as anyone how incredibly sensitive this matter is. We don't yet know all of the facts, but we intend to find out as much as we can. I want to thank you for the way in which you, John Pastore and George Murphy have handled this matter. Together I think we can resolve it in the best interest of the nation, and I appreciate your efforts very much.

