

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Andy

Though addressed to General Persons,  
I thought you should see first. ann

Gen Persons



Return to  
Staff Sec. for  
Falvey

President's concern is that  
we may be making  
permanent a program of  
nuclear power development  
that gets (or will get)  
the Federal Gov't into the  
public power business.  
L

Action reported  
to President  
4 April 1960

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NLE 2015-1 #10  
By MMK NLDDE Date 11/2/16

STAFF NOTES NO. 725

February 16, 1960

Persons -  
to anyone looking into  
see this?

1. Science. -- Dr. Kistiakowsky reports that: a) The Space Science Panel of the President's Science Advisory Committee is apprehensive that some of the more immediate opportunities for substantial achievement in scientific exploration of space may not be vigorously exploited. The Panel believes that the astronomical telescope project has great promise, will enhance our national stature, and will be especially intelligible to the public. The Panel also feels that the US can make a massive contribution to astronomy that will change the science for many years. Another especially promising field is the unknown environment one or two hundred thousand miles beyond the vicinity of the earth where sun effects are dominant. Understanding of the wealth of scientific phenomena which this region probably contains could directly affect the progress of space exploration. b) The Air Defense Panel, reconstituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Emanuel Piore, has been intensively studying the areas of early warning and manned interception, and looking for ways to facilitate the operational realization of the design promise of the SAGE system. This Panel is concerned over the high degree of centralization of control of air defense and the vulnerability of the system to enemy missile attack. (S)



2. HAWK. -- The first intercept of an operational ballistic-type target by a US surface-to-air missile system occurred successfully at White Sands on January 27, when a HAWK without a warhead passed within 15 feet of an HONEST JOHN at 4 n. mi. range, 1.5 miles above the ground. (Passage within 25 feet is considered an intercept.) In another controlled-condition R&D test on January 29 at approximately the same range and altitude, a HAWK with an HE warhead destroyed an HONEST JOHN with a target speed of 605 knots, at a miss distance of only 2.5 feet. (C)

3. GI Loans. -- VA will announce tomorrow that there were



~~SECRET~~

SN # 725

- 2 -

11, 836 applications for home loan guarantees in January, down from 15, 364 in December. VA insured housing starts dropped one-third from the preceding month and appraisal requests for existing units were somewhat lower. (These January figures were the lowest since mid-1958.) Appraisal requests for proposed units were up slightly from December (but lower than in any other month since April 1958). (Admin. Conf.)

4. Disability Benefits. -- HEW reports that at the end of December disability benefits under the Social Security Act were being paid at a monthly rate of \$33.9 million to 334, 000 disabled workers aged 50-64, and to 126, 000 dependents. Several hundred thousand disabled workers under age 50 and retired workers (or their dependents or survivors) also are receiving or will receive benefits. Approximately eighty thousand disabled persons over 18 who became disabled before 18 and are dependents of disabled workers also received payments. In total, between July 1955 and December 1959, there were nearly 850, 000 workers and dependent children severely disabled within the meaning of the law. (Admin. Conf.)



5. US-Iran. -- The Shah has asked that wheat, and perhaps other products, be included in our PL 480 program for Iran. He also thinks that the considerably increased expenditures in the new Iranian budget will be offset by greater efficiency in tax collections. Our Ambassador, who has not yet received State's answer on the wheat request, comments that the Shah has continually refused to face up to the inflation problem. He notes that the Iranian land reform program, on which we have been officially neutral because it is a domestic matter, could have a widespread effect if properly carried out. (C)

6. US and India. -- Late this month AEC is sending a small mission to explore the technical and economic potential of India's nuclear power program. The mission is a follow-up to the discussions here last fall with Dr. Homi J. Bhaba; but it will avoid implying any US commitments to the 5-year, 1 million KW nuclear power program he is proposing. (Admin. Conf.)

~~SECRET~~