

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENTS  
ON THE PLOWSHARE PROGRAM

16 AUGUST 1963

Chairman Fulbright. Mr. McCone, just elaborating a bit what you said, in endorsing this treaty, have you considered the factor of the restriction upon possible peaceful uses of atomic energy, such as, for example, its significance in our moon project?

Mr. McCone. Yes, I have. I think that is one of the very unfortunate provisions of the treaty. I can understand why it was included. If you had tried to define an area of peaceful uses it would destroy one of the main purposes of the treaty, which is the question of proliferation. We can in the underground proceed with research and development work of importance to the PLOWSHARE program. But we cannot conduct any PLOWSHARE projects or even demonstrations without violation of the treaty, or at least the intent of the treaty.

This matter was discussed in the negotiations. PLOWSHARE is becoming important to the Soviet Union also. They have a few rivers they want to change and things they want to do. It was decided that since research could be pursued--

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and there was research to be done--that when and if the time came when an actual project which would be beneficial not only to one country but to several should be pursued, perhaps a protocol could be worked out at that time. It was on that basis that I thought it was a satisfactory way to dispose of the problem.

.....

Chairman Fulbright. That is another point. I certainly am not competent to comment on it, but he made this in his own statement which struck me as a layman as a little farfetched. But if such a contingency should arise in the future, this is the type of thing that could well be negotiated, I would think, with all interested parties; do you not think so?

Mr. McCone. If the project were beneficial to a number of countries, I think it probably could be negotiated.

Excerpted from [redacted] Transcript of Proceedings; United States Senate; Committee on Foreign Relations, Committee on Armed Services, Senate members of Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, August 16, 1963

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DOC. NO.		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED	
DOC. DATE <b>6 Feb 64</b>		LOGGED BY	
COPY NO. <b># 1</b>			
NUMBER OF PAGES <b>2</b>			
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS <b>—</b>			

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<b>Chas 368</b>		<b>7 Feb 64</b>					<b>sent OSI 7 Feb 64</b>	
<b>ER</b>		<b>12 FEB 64</b>			<b>12 FEB 64</b>			
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