

C O N F I D E N T I A L

O R R / S T / D 55

24th March, 1960.COCOM Document No. 3927BCOORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONFRENCH PROPOSAL TO FREE MAGNESIUM OXIDE17th March 1960

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Docs. Nos. 3876 and 3915.

1. The FRENCH Delegate stated that, following the discussion of the 10th March on the revision of the definition of Item 13 of the Atomic Energy List, the United States Delegation and the competent French services had drawn the French Delegation's attention to the fact that the French version of the definition adopted by the Committee did not correspond to the English version appearing in the Lists. Owing apparently to an error in translation, the words "beryllium" and "zirconium" had been used in the French text in place of the words "beryllium oxide" and "zirconium oxide". The United States Delegation had further informed the French Delegation that the figure of 97% of stabilised zirconium oxide did not appear in the English text of the definition, and had therefore requested that this figure of 97% be deleted from the French version of Item 13 also. The Delegate stated that the competent French authorities had not raised objection to this request.

2. The UNITED STATES Delegate confirmed that, for some reason not known to him, the French version of the definition of Item 13 appearing in the Atomic Energy List did not correspond exactly to the English version. To bring it into line with the latter, the French definition of Item 13 might be amended as follows:

"Matériaux pouvant servir pour les réfractaires composés de:  
 - 97% ou plus, en poids, d'oxyde de béryllium ou d'oxyde de zirconium;  
 - l'oxyde de zirconium stabilisé par de la chaux et/ou de l'oxyde de magnésium;  
 et creusets, moules et barreaux composés de l'une des substances ci-dessus."

3. The GERMAN Delegate stated that he could not agree to this redefinition in French of Item 13, without first consulting his authorities. He believed that it might perhaps be a question of substance, rather than a straightforward question of translation. He recalled the Committee ruling that the French and English versions were equally authentic.

4. The FRENCH Delegate concurred in his German colleague's remark. He stated that, while the French technical services had not objected to the United States authorities' request, an explanation of the United States standpoint would certainly be appreciated.

5. The BELGIAN Delegate stated that, like his German colleague, he had to reserve his authorities' position, not merely on the question of the percentage of stabilised zirconium oxide, however, but on the whole definition as proposed by the United States Delegation. The Delegate stressed that his authorities had always consulted the French version of the International Lists

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and, before agreeing to modify the French text of the latter, he would have to refer to his authorities. Moreover, the two suggestions made by the United States Delegation seemed to him to be more restrictive than the present definition. He explained that 97% of beryllium oxide represented a smaller quantity of beryllium than 97% of this substance in its pure state.

6. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that he was unable to say whether the figure of 97% mentioned for the second time in the French version of the definition should appear in the English version. This second percentage might possibly not be 97%. He felt that the best solution would be to leave this second percentage out of the French version.

7. The CHAIRMAN stated that in his opinion the question might not be solely one of translation.

8. The ITALIAN Delegate agreed with the Chairman, and felt that, in view of the nature of the problem raised, the only thing that delegations could do at that time was to transmit the whole redefinition proposed for Item 13 on the Atomic Energy List to their authorities for final views.

9. The UNITED STATES Delegate recalled that all his Delegation was proposing was an exact translation of the English text into French. The question of introducing the figure of 97% appearing in the French definition into the English text was a substantive matter, and the Delegate could but reserve his Government's position in this respect. He suggested that it would be undesirable to implement the Committee's previous agreement to modify this item, until the latter had agreed on the precise language to be included in both the English and French texts.

10. The COMMITTEE agreed that the deletion of the words "magnesium oxide" in line 3 of the English text and in the corresponding line in the French text would come into effect on the 1st April, notwithstanding paragraph 14 of COCOM Doc. 3915 which allowed for the raising of objections up to that date. The other problems identified above would, however, be discussed on the 7th April, and would delay the issuance of an amendment to the International Lists until that discussion had been concluded.

11. In conclusion, the CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee was now faced with three possibilities:

- 1) To adopt the English version of the definition and translate it literally into French. See paragraph 2 above.
- 2) To adopt the French version and translate it literally into English. The definition of Item 13 would be that set out in the French version of COCOM Doc. No. 3915, i.e.

"Materials, suitable for use in refractories, composed of 97% or more by weight of beryllium, or zirconium oxide, or composed of 97% or more by weight of zirconium, stabilised with lime and/or magnesium oxide; and crucibles, moulds and pouring rods composed of any one of the foregoing."

- 3) In the latter case, to decide whether or not to include the word "oxide" after the words "beryllium" and "zirconium".

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