

2654



TOP SECRET

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM
CANBERRA

J.801/1
BC:dk

CABINET SECRETARIAT
REGISTERED
27 APR 1953
FILE NO. M.143

31st March, 1953

*UK unclassified BR 328.2
Att. 5/6/53.*

My dear McKnight,

Will you please refer to your letter of the 18th March (M.143) about Operation Totem. I am writing to you separately as regards your enquiry about the communication of certain information to Professors Martin and Titterton.

As regards other points raised in your letter, the United Kingdom authorities, for their part would prefer that the arranged leak about the expendable pilotless bomber should be made in Australia and that the Australian authorities should be responsible for the arrangements for letting it out. A suggestion to this effect was made in a message from the Chairman of the U.K. Totem Panel to the Chairman of the Australian Totem Panel on the 11th March. Perhaps you would let me know whether the Australian authorities concur in this suggestion.

The U.K. authorities are glad to note the arrangements made by the Australian authorities for keeping a continuous watch on the situation. They would, however, like to be consulted before the pilotless bomber cover-plan is put into operation.

As regards your enquiry about the U.K./ Australian staff for Sir William Penney, communications about the numbers and type of Australian personnel whom it is hoped will be able to serve on the joint staff have been exchanged with Major General Stevens and he has the fullest information available.

Alan McKnight, Esq.,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Copy: Mr Stevens 2/4/53

No doubt the Australian Government will wish to have Australian scientific representatives also present at the trial. Names which have occurred to the U.K. authorities in this connection are Professors Martin and Titterton and Dr Butement. The Australian Government might also be glad to have a Civil Defence representative. The U.K. authorities, for their part, would be glad to know, in due course, what the Australian Government have in mind in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Crookham