



CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

obviously did not expect a meeting of this nature.

Most of the questions from AEC representatives concerned various problems of classification for the German Government, although Professor Groth was only partially informed about the general problem.

Professor Groth said he did not believe it was possible for either his group or Professor Byerle to continue centrifuge studies at the universities if the work were classified. He thought the only way the work could be carried out would be through the formation of a new organization composed of his and Professor Byerle's staffs working directly under the German Atomic Energy Ministry. He added there were two possible approaches to classification—imposition of state or industrial secrecy. He believed that from the political point of view it would be more desirable to apply industrial rather than state classification. The former procedure would permit communication of certain information to interested people abroad if clearance was given by the Economics Ministry. He professed no detailed information about the procedure, but understood that it would be the responsibility of the German Atomic Energy Ministry to request the Economics Ministry to impose classification upon such information as it thought was sensitive. Professor Groth added that he thought DEGUSSA would not continue to work on the centrifuge problem if state secrecy was imposed, although the company might continue it if industrial classification alone applied.

Referring to his own work, Professor Groth said that he had instructed his staff to continue its studies, but to publish nothing and to show no outsiders what was being done. He said this would work as a temporary expedient, but added that the imposition of any type of classification would deter first-rate young scientists from continuing work in this field, since the making of their reputations depended in large measure on the articles they published.

Professor Groth said that a considerable number of requests from foreign sources had been received by his group for information concerning gas centrifuge equipment. He mentioned in particular India and France and said that no answers were being given for the time being to these letters. Professor Groth doubted whether there was any eagerness on the part of German manufacturers to build gas centrifuge equipment, since German industrial capacity was now heavily strained, and thought that the current interest in classification would not stimulate any desire to proceed with the manufacture of such equipment. He added that earlier he was considering the possibility of having such equipment manufactured in the United States under special license. //

Professor Groth thought it was a bit late to impose secrecy on the centrifuge development, but conceded there was some marginal utility even at this time in classifying the work as a means of preventing the spread of weapons capabilities.

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