

No. 3299

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
BELGIUM**

**Agreement for co-operation concerning civil uses of atomic
energy. Signed at Washington, on 15 June 1955**

Official texts: English and French.

Registered by the United States of America on 25 April 1956.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
BELGIQUE**

**Accord de coopération relatif aux usages civils de l'éner-
gie atomique. Signé à Washington, le 15 juin 1955**

Textes officiels anglais et français

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 25 avril 1956.

No. 3299. AGREEMENT¹ FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM
CONCERNING THE CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY.
SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, ON 15 JUNE 1955

Beginning with discussions in 1940 the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belgium have cooperated with each other in the atomic energy field.

As a result of these discussions, the Belgian Government and the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom reached a common understanding as to the desirability during World War II, as well as in the future, that all uranium ores wherever located should be subject to effective control for the protection of civilization. To this end, the Government of Belgium undertook to insure effective control of such ores located in all territory subject to its authority.

The Belgian Government has also made available Congo uranium ores to the United States and the United Kingdom through commercial contracts. The Belgian Government further undertook to use its best endeavors to supply such quantities of uranium ores as might be required by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom.

The arrangements outlined above were on the understanding that Belgium would reserve for itself such quantities of uranium ores as might be required for its own scientific and industrial purposes. The Belgian Government, however, in deciding to utilize such ores as a source of energy for commercial power would do so in consultation and in agreement with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom. The latter on their part, agreed that the Belgian Government should participate on equitable terms in the utilization of these ores as a source of energy for commercial power at such time as the two Governments should decide to employ the ores for this purpose.

Since that time the Government of Belgium has made available to the United States and to the United Kingdom, through commercial contracts, a vitally important quantity of uranium produced in the Belgian Congo and thus has made a unique contribution to the defense of the western world. The United States and the United Kingdom have assisted in the development of the Congo uranium properties and have assisted the Government of Belgium in the establishment of

¹ In accordance with article II, the Agreement came into force on 21 July 1955, the date of receipt by the Government of Belgium of a notification from the Government of the United States of America that the period of thirty days required by the United States Atomic Energy Act of 1954 had elapsed.

a research and development program the principal objective of which is the realization of the peaceful use of atomic energy. Consequently a special relationship exists between the Government of the United States and the Government of Belgium in the field of atomic energy. While the United States must continue to give priority to the defense aspects of atomic energy, an increasing number of opportunities exist for the development of its peaceful applications. In keeping, therefore, with the special relationship, the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belgium, the Parties to this Agreement, desire to establish an expanded program of cooperation and have agreed as follows :

Article I

It is the intent of this Agreement that the Government of Belgium will receive from the United States Atomic Energy Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, information and materials on terms as favorable as any other major uranium supplying country except Canada.

Article II

PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt by the Government of Belgium of a notification from the Government of the United States of America that the period of thirty days required by Section 123c of the United States Atomic Energy Act of 1954 has elapsed, and it shall remain in force through July 31, 1965. The Parties will reexamine the bases of this Agreement if world disarmament is realized or if a threat to world peace so requires.

Article III

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

A. With the objective of facilitating the development of peacetime uses of atomic energy, and particularly the development of atomic power, the Government of Belgium and the Commission agree to exchange the following information, subject to the limitations of paragraph C of this Article :

- (1) General information on the over-all progress and economics of power reactor programs ;
- (2) Technological information required for the construction of specific reactors for the Belgian power program in Belgium, the Belgian Congo, and Ruanda-Urundi.

B. The exchange of information provided for in this Article includes the communication to the Commission of information developed in the Belgian power

program and will be accomplished through the various means available, such as reports, conferences, and visits to facilities, and shall, subject to the limitations of paragraph C, include the following :

1. The Commission will transmit as needed in the Belgian project information relating to reactors which Belgium intends to construct as a part of its current experimental power and power program and which falls within one or the other of the following areas :

- (a) *Specifications for Reactor Materials.* Final form specifications including composition, shape, size and special handling techniques of reactor materials including uranium, heavy water, pile grade graphite, zirconium.
- (b) *Properties of Reactor Materials.* Physical, chemical, metallurgical, nuclear and mechanical properties of reactor materials including fuel, moderator and coolant and the effects of the reactor's operating conditions on the properties of these materials.
- (c) *Reactor Components.* The design and performance specifications of reactor components but not including the methods of production and fabrication.
- (d) *Reactor Physics Technology.* This area includes theory of and pertinent data relating to neutron bombardment reactions, neutron cross sections, criticality calculations, reactor kinetics and shielding.
- (e) *Reactor Engineering Technology.* This area includes considerations pertinent to the over-all design and optimization of the reactor and theory and data relating to such problems as reactor stress and heat transfer analysis.
- (f) *Environmental Safety Considerations.* This area includes considerations relating to normal reactor radiations and possible accidental hazards and the effect of these on equipment and personnel and appropriate methods of waste disposal and decontamination.

2. The Commission will receive selected security-cleared personnel from Belgium to work with and participate in the construction of the PWR reactor at Shippingport, Pennsylvania and such other reactors as may be agreed.

3. The Commission will transmit to the Belgian Government all essential information as indicated in subparagraph B 1 relating to the objective of making it possible for Belgium to design, construct, and operate a thermal, heterogeneous, pressurized light or heavy water (boiling or non-boiling) reactor if the decision is made on the part of the Belgian Government to construct such a reactor.

4. There will be collaboration with respect to unclassified reactor information and technology and with respect to unclassified information relating to the production of reactor materials such as heavy water, zirconium, and hafnium.

C. 1. The Parties will not exchange Restricted Data under this Agreement relating to design or fabrication of atomic weapons or information which, in the opinion of the Commission, is primarily of military significance ; and no Restricted Data concerning the production of special nuclear materials will be exchanged except that concerning the incidental production of special nuclear materials in a power reactor. It is recognized that the Commission may come into possession of privately developed and privately owned information and information received from other governments which it is not permitted to exchange. It is also recognized that the Government of Belgium may come into possession of information developed and owned by private persons and industries not having access to information transmitted under this Agreement and information received from other governments which it is not permitted to exchange.

2. a. The Commission will communicate classified technical information required for the construction of any specific reactor only when Belgium is seriously considering the construction of the specific type of reactor in Belgium, the Belgian Congo, or Ruanda-Urundi and when private industry in the United States is permitted to undertake the construction and operation of the same type of reactor. In addition, the Commission will communicate classified information on any specific type of reactor other than those types mentioned in subparagraph B 3 only when, except as may otherwise be agreed, the Commission has made a finding that the specific type of reactor has been sufficiently developed to be of practical value for industrial or commercial purposes.

b. Further, the Commission will communicate classified information pertaining exclusively to any reactor-types, such as submarine, ship, aircraft, and certain package power reactors, the development of which is concerned primarily with their military use, only when, in the opinion of the Commission, these types of reactors warrant peacetime application and as exchange of information on these types of reactors may be mutually agreed.

Article IV

RESEARCH MATERIALS

Materials of interest in connection with the subjects of agreed exchange of information as provided in Article III, and under the limitations set forth therein, including source materials, special nuclear materials, byproduct material, other radioisotopes, and stable isotopes will be exchanged for research purposes in such quantities and under such terms and conditions as may be agreed, except as provided