

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
Division of Atomic Energy Research

28-1-1-1

File No. 25-1-1-1

NOTE

TO - M. H. Thomas

FRENCH HEAVY WATER

Professor Joliot has not agreed to the solution I proposed for paying France for their heavy water. He now requests 12 litres of heavy water of purity 90% or higher.

Have we any low grade heavy water which could be made available to meet this request?

WBL/ac

W. B. Lewis

Chalk River, Ont.
13 May, 1948.

20-1-1

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NO. 4 OF 6 COPIES, SERIES A

18 May, 1948.

Dr. C. J. Mackenzie,
The National Research Council,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Mackenzie, FRONTIER HEAVY WATER

As I mentioned to you last week, Professor Joliot did not agree to the solution we proposed for paying France for their heavy water. He requested 12 litres of heavy water of purity 90% or higher. This is, of course, only a small fraction of the initial amount of heavy water received from the French which amounted to 295 lbs.

We have available at the project some heavy water of approximately 92% purity from which we could supply the 12 litres requested. This would otherwise be returned to Trail for re-concentration.

As agreed previously, we would have no direct negotiations with Prof. Joliot and would merely, if approved, ship the heavy water to Harwell.

Permission is therefore requested for the shipment of 12 litres of 92% purity heavy water to A.E.R.E. Harwell in a returnable stainless steel container.

Yours sincerely,

WBL/ac

W. B. Lewis

VIA REGISTERED MAIL

cc G. H. Jarvis, A.E. Control Board
H. H. Thomas, N.R.C. Chalk River

~~SECRET~~

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25th June, 1948.

Dear Mr. Birchard,

Thank you for your letter of June 12th in which you state that about 12 litres of heavy water of purity of 90% or over will be sent to us for transmission to Professor Joliot.

The position about the French heavy water is that about 154 kilos were brought over by the British team to Montreal early in 1943.

Some part of this heavy water was lost in the course of the research work and I was informed by Dr. Lewis in a letter of September 18th, 1947, that a total amount of heavy water at Chalk River from this source was then about 130 kilos.

Professor Joliot has asked us to return gradually an amount of heavy water equivalent to that originally supplied from France less losses. I understood from Dr. Mackenzie some time ago that the National Research Council would be prepared to consider the provision of funds equal to the present-day cost in Canada of heavy water. I shall be grateful if you could let me know how the matter now stands.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Cockcroft

E. R. Birchard, Esq.,
Vice President (Admin.),
National Research Council,
Ottawa,
Canada.

cc Mr. D. E. H. Peirson