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NOTES FOR MEETING WITH GENERAL BULLEME, 3 DECEMBER 1953

1. Nearly two years have elapsed since the DMHP plant at Muscle Shoals was scheduled to be in production. Many of the difficulties which have prevented successful operation of the plant are inherent in the DMHP process and others have not been easy to overcome, but every effort must now be made by the Army to bring the GB plants into production or to demonstrate that the present plant design is not technically feasible in which case a modification must be introduced without delay. If the engineering talent now available in the Cml C is not adequate to attain these objectives in a reasonably short period, assistance should be sought from other sources since the size of the investment in the GB production plants and of the monthly operating costs of the plants warrants an intensive effort.
2. It is recommended that the Cml C ask a small committee from the Cml C advisory council (or associated committees) to survey the situation at Muscle Shoals, assess the capabilities of the Cml C in attaining the above objectives, recommend procedures to be followed in bringing the plant into operation and consider the advisability of seeking a contractor for a part or all of the GB production facilities. If the Cml C now believes that it has too few experienced engineers and design facilities at its command and that the assistance of a contractor is desirable, the committee would be asked to survey the situation at Muscle Shoals and recommend procedures to be followed in the interval during which a contractor would be sought.
3. It is recommended that the advice of the committee from the Cml C advisory council be sought on the following specific problems:
  - a) The selection of a modification to Step I at Muscle Shoals which should be piloted so as to be available when needed.
  - b) Further laboratory and pilot plant studies which may be needed for Step III at Muscle Shoals to improve process control, minimize corrosion difficulties and hazards to operating personnel so that Step III will be operable when Step I comes into production.
  - c) Modifications which will be required in Step I and Step III at Muscle Shoals to regain the original design capacity of the plants.
  - d) Further pilot plant studies, e.g. on the aluminum chloride recovery, which may be needed if the APC process is to be evaluated on the same basis as the Salt, DMHP and HTM processes when pilot plant studies on the latter methods are completed.

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