

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

73948

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

January 11, 1954

Memorandum For General Fields

Mr. Strauss discussed the attached letter with the President this morning and you will note that the President initialed and okehed both pages of it.

JM
John Mackenzie

Note: Recorded in Commission Digest 1/15/54

	US DOE ARCHIVES
RG	326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Collection	SECRETARIAT
Box	4929
Folder	MRA 7 CASTLE, VOL. 3

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
WITH DELETIONS *
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
H. H. Hopper 12/11/85
REVIEWED BY DATE

* EXCEPT FOR ENCLOSURE
TO ATTACHED LETTER.

C. W. Wilson 2/12/86

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JUN 11 1954

AUTHENTICATED 49 June 1954
U. S. A. [Redacted]
BY: [Redacted]
DOCUMENT [Redacted]
2513

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is written to obtain approval for executing the full-scale atomic test program planned to begin on March 1, 1954, and scheduled to extend through April 1954, at the Pacific Proving Grounds. CASTLE, the code name assigned to the operation, has been planned in coordination with the Department of Defense and that agency has designated Joint Task Force SEVEN to support the Atomic Energy Commission in the execution of the test. The Department of Defense has coordinated with the Atomic Energy Commission in formulating a weapons effects program which will be executed in conjunction with the test series. It is planned to detonate not more than seven shots in the CASTLE series.

The short term aspects of the series, [Redacted] are directed toward determining the content of the emergency capability program. Tests of [Redacted] concern longer term aspects of the thermonuclear program and should provide answers to problems indicating the direction of development in the next generation of thermonuclear weapons.

A brief description of each of the weapons to be tested is attached as enclosure to this letter.

Approval is requested for the CASTLE full-scale test series at the Pacific Proving Grounds beginning in March 1954. It is requested also that specific authority be given to (a) fire up to seven shots as above outlined and (b) to expend the fissionable and fusionable material required in approximate amounts as follows:

The President
The White House



DE

My check of 6-12-54 - President, 6/12/54

The President

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In the event that it should become necessary to increase the amounts of fissionable and/or fusionable material to the extent of not more than ten percent beyond the amounts given above, it is requested that the above authorization include approval for such increase without further reference to your office.

Respectfully yours,

Lewis L. Strauss

Lewis L. Strauss
Chairman

Enclosure:
Description of Thermonuclear
Weapon Prototypes and Devices
for Test at CASTLE

DOE ARCHIVES

OK
/
WJ