

HEADQUARTERS
TASK GROUP 7.1
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
APO 187 (HOW), 4 POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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JF- 7580

17 April 1954

Brigadier General Kenneth E. Fields
Department of Military Application
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D.C.

RM

Dear Ken:

*checked
off connection*

I received your message from Andy and your personal letter to me with clippings. My firm opinion is that we should never again try a series here with more than four shots and of these no more than two should be megaton gadgets. We are prepared now to shoot three shots within a week if the highest authority will really be kind to us. Such a schedule is obviously most improbable but we may very well shoot two within a couple of days. Although there is always a chance of further incidents the group here is going to do its best to avoid them and has an excellent chance of completing the job without further international complications. I doubt if it is wise to tie VIP's to specific shots. This arrangement reduces the flexibility of test operations too much. If I ever have anything to do with another operation, which is an unlikely circumstance if I ever heard one, I would propose to get shots ready as soon as possible and fire when the weather is suitable rather than schedule a shot for 1 March for instance. This method of proceeding would have gotten the shot ready a week ahead of its firing date and would have permitted the shot to go on 27 February or 28 February. Either date would have been better than what we actually had on 1 March.

I am glad you managed to get through Albuquerque without complications.

Sincerely,

Alvin C. Graves

**CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
PER DOC REVIEW JAN 1973**

Classification changed to Unclassified (by deletion)
by authority of the U.S.D.O.E.

Per ACG:jap M. Paulkatz, TSM, FSS-16, 6/7/94
(Sig. of person authorizing change, title, org., date)

J.A. Brown, Op 6C, FSS-16, 6/7/94
(Sig. of second reviewer, title, organization, date)

~~SECRET~~

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OS-6 M. Paulkatz 6/7/94

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