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Brig. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, Director of  
Military Application, AEC, Washington, D. C.

K. F. Hertford, Manager  
Albuquerque Operations

Original signed by  
K. F. Hertford

This document consists  
of 1 pages. No. 2/10  
Code Series A

**SANDIA CORPORATION PARTICIPATION IN HIGH ALTITUDE TESTS FOR HARDTACK**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to request clarification on the administration and the conduct of the two high altitude high yield nuclear detonations in Operation HARDTACK.

Your memorandum of January 22, 1957 restricted our activities to that of permitting Sandia Corporation to undertake (within current budget limits) development work on instrumentation pending the determination to conduct the tests. This work has developed favorably, and a copy of the proposed instrument array is enclosed.

Your letter to Dr. Graves of March 22, 1957 requested that the EPG Planning Board look at the novel safety hazards posed by these high altitude tests and asked if a more isolated atoll like Taongi shouldn't be used as the launch site in preference to Bikini. The Board held a meeting on this matter on March 26, 1957, but decided that additional safety information was required before recommendations could be made.

The events that have transpired since your January 22 memorandum have lead us to believe that there is no further doubt that the tests will be performed. Accordingly, I request that the administrative determination for the responsibility and scope of work for the AEC and the DOD be resolved, and a directive be furnished outlining the responsibilities of ALOO.

Enclosure  
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