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

SEP 2 1955

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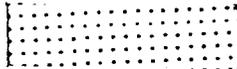


Dear Mr. President:

The Department of Defense has requested the Atomic Energy Commission to conduct safety tests of several nuclear weapons which are planned for stockpile in the next few years. Accordingly, the Atomic Energy Commission is planning to conduct a series of from four to eight detonations at the Nevada Test Site commencing in October 1955.

This series of detonations will be of a different purpose and of far lesser scope than earlier full-scale nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada Site. These will involve only the non-symmetrical firing of the high explosive surrounding the nuclear material in a manner similar to that which could be expected in case of fire or accident with the objective of determining what, if any, nuclear reaction may occur. In event of nuclear reaction, which is a very small probability, the greatest yield that could possibly take place would not exceed 1 KT. Though all necessary precautions will be taken, no extensive mobilization of on-site operating or off-base monitoring personnel will be required.

There will be an expenditure of nuclear material involved and, therefore, your authority is requested to conduct the proposed tests



A suitable public release announcing the limited purpose and scope of the tests will be made at an appropriate time prior to initiation of the series.

Respectfully yours,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Chairman

The President
The White House

DECLASSIFIED

Authority MR82-223 #1

By bc NLE Date 6/24/82

PORTIONS EXEMPTED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.301 (1) 6-201

DOE letter 5/21/82

NLE Date 6/24/82

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