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

NLE MR Case No. 79-274

407177

Document No. 2

14 Jan 1955.

*Original seen
and approved
by President
14 Jan 1955.
AB*

Dear Mr. President:

Following the President's approval of the Atomic Energy Commission's proposal of August 30, 1954, of the conduct of a series of nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site in the Spring of 1955, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense have developed the detailed test program considered necessary at this time in the interest of rapid progress in the field of nuclear weapons. The major purposes of this series of tests are as follows:

- a. The development of small-diameter implosion systems to provide more efficient weapons for air defense, tactical and demolition purposes.
- b. The development of small-size but powerful thermonuclear weapons suitable for delivery by tactical aircraft and guided missiles.
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. The acquisition of additional essential data on the military effects of atomic explosions and on effects for civil defense purposes.

To obtain information for the successful development of these weapons and the effects information desired by the Department of Defense and the Federal Civil Defense Administration, it will be necessary to detonate twelve devices varying in yield from 1 KT or less to about 40 KT.



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MR 79-274

NLE Date 11/7/80

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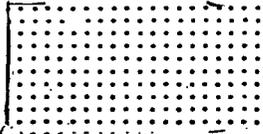
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It should be noted that the Federal Civil Defense Administration has requested, and the Atomic Energy Commission has concurred in, subject to your approval, an "open shot" to be attended by un-cleared observers and news media representatives. This shot would be scheduled for mid-April, the exact date being dependent on suitable operating conditions.

The Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense concur in the necessity for conducting Operation TEAPOT.

The Atomic Energy Commission requests that the President approve the specific program of atomic tests at the Nevada Test Site during the approximate period February 15 to June 1, 1955. Specific authority is requested for:

- a. The firing of up to twelve nuclear devices comprising Operation TEAPOT at the Nevada Test Site during the period indicated above;
- b. The expenditure of fissionable material in Operation TEAPOT as follows:



(Approximately 10% has been included in the above amounts as an allowance for unforeseen contingencies.)

Respectfully yours,

Chairman

The President
The White House

APPROVED

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