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7. AEC 952/2 - High Altitude Test (pp. 87-97)*

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 Meeting
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Colonel Skinner reviewed AEC 952/2 - High Altitude Test, a staff paper based on Mr. E. O. Lawrence's suggestion that the U. S. undertake an immediate nuclear test detonation at a very high altitude for the purpose of studying U. S. long range detection capability. In response to a question by Mr. Murray, Colonel Skinner commented on the work necessary to prepare a surface-to-air missile with a nuclear warhead for this test.

Mr. Fields remarked that if this test were approved, the U. S. would be in the position of conducting simultaneous test operations at NTS as well as in the Pacific. Mr. Murray said he believed the advantages of conducting the high altitude test in 1957, prior to Operation HARDTACK, would off-set the disadvantages of the test.

Mr. Fields suggested that the Commission defer action on this staff paper until after the next AEC-MLC Conference in order that General Loper could present his position on this matter. Mr. Fields also indicated that he would discuss this matter further with Mr. Lawrence before re-scheduling the staff paper for Commission consideration.

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