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This document consists of [redacted] pages

Copy No. 13 of 16 series A

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE UHA AND VHA-PRIME SHOTS OF OPERATION HARDTACK

Report to the General Manager by the Director of Military Application

1. In AEC 952/21 I advised you that a report on the safety aspects of the UHA (250,000 feet) and VHA-prime (125,000 feet) shots of Operation HARDTACK would be forthcoming. A copy of that report is being circulated separately to the Commission by the Secretary. Attached is a copy of a TWX from Dr. A. C. Graves, Chairman of the Eniwetok Proving Ground Planning Board commenting on the report.

2. I invite your attention to the following pages of the safety report which I believe will be of interest to you:

a. Page VI-1 which contains the conclusions of the board.

b. Page III-6 through Page III-9 which contain information relative to probabilities of disastrous events associated with possible, foreseeable situations.

3. I will advise you further concerning the problem of flash blindness upon completion of the study mentioned by Dr. Graves in his TWX.

4. Meanwhile, I am continuing DMA preparations to implement these shots as planned.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
~~OR CHANGED TO~~
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE
BY [illegible] DATE 3/22/73

Enclosures:
1. Cy TWX Graves to Starbird dtd 11/20/57

RESTRICTED DATA
This document contains restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Its transmittal or the disclosure of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited.

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ENCLOSURE

FM LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LAB LOS ALAMOS NMEX
TO DIV OF MILITARY APPLICATION USAEC WASHDC
UCRL LIVERMORE CALIF
SANDIA CORP SANDIAB ALBUQUERQUE NMEX
COMDR FCAFSWP SANDIAB ALBUQUERQUE NMEX
COMDR JTF-7 WASHDC

TO AD STARBIRD, INFO DUANE SEWELL, GERALD JOHNSON, RICHARD BICE, COL H E PARSONS, COL THOMAS S JEFFREY, TYPED COPIES TO WM OGLE AND DON SHUSTER FROM ALVIN GRAVES. CITE CLN JDO-7

AS REQUESTED IN YOUR LETTER TO ME OF 22 MARCH 1957, THE ENIWETOK PLANNING BOARD MET 18 NOVEMBER FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE THREE HARDTACK HIGH ALTITUDE SHOTS. IT CONCLUDED THAT THE THREE SHOTS COULD BE CONDUCTED WITH ADEQUATE ASSURANCE OF SAFETY, AND SUGGESTED TWO MINOR MODIFICATIONS OF ASSOCIATED CIRCUITRY IN INTEREST OF INCREASING SAFETY DURING CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE ORDER OF HAZARD BECAUSE OF MALFUNCTION OF MISSILE OR ARMING AND FIRING CIRCUIT WAS PERSONNEL ON BIKINI ISLAND, PERSONNEL ON ENYU ISLAND, TASK FORCE SHIPS, AND LEAST, NATIVES ON NEARBY ATOLLS. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT SUCH HAZARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL WATERS WOULD BE EXTREMELY SMALL. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO HAZARDS FROM THERMAL RADIATION OR FROM FALSH BLINDNESS IN INTERNATIONAL WATER OR ON NEARBY ATOLLS. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE NEED BE NO CONCERN ON THE THERMAL RADIATION PROBLEM. ADDITIONAL STUDY IS BEING GIVEN TO THE FLASH BLINDNESS PROBLEM AND A BETTER ANSWER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE EARLY NEXT YEAR. IT SEEMS UNLIKE THAT CALCULATIONS IN PROGRESS WILL SHOW THAT A PROBLEM EXIST

WHICH CANNOT BE HANDLED OPERATIONALLY BY THE TASK FORCE. THE PLANNING BOARD THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT SAFETY CONSIDERATI PRESENT NO REASON FOR DISCONTINUING WORK AIMED AT PERFORMING THESE TESTS. DETAILED AND APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU AS USUAL WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE. END OF MESSAGE