

REPOSITORY NARA College Park  
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 FOLDER MRA 7 Handtack, v2

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*Handtack*

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY:	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
REVIEWER (ADD):	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
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DATE:	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
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	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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Dear Mr. Durham:

On September 17, 1957 I wrote to you concerning our plans for testing in Operation **HANDTACK**, the spring 1958 test series at the Nevada Proving Ground, and noted that as our plans were further developed, I would keep the Committee informed.

We now have a reasonably firm program of tests in hand which has been approved by the Commission and concurred in by the Department of Defense. Operation **HANDTACK** will start on or about April 15, 1958, and will consist of about 25 firm laboratory and DGD effects shots. In addition there are two contingent shots whose firing depends on the outcome of their counterparts among the firm shots.

Besides these tests, we plan to conduct up to three safety tests in the spring of 1958 at the Nevada Test Site, beginning on or about February 22, 1958. The purpose of these tests is to determine that, if certain designs are detonated accidentally, no nuclear reaction would occur.

The President has approved the **HANDTACK** test program and the safety tests in Nevada, and has authorized the expenditure of the required special nuclear materials for these tests. The detailed description of the **HANDTACK** tests, the devices involved and their objectives is attached.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Sincerely yours,

When separated from enclosures, handle this document as

DOCUMENT TRANSMITTED  
 HEREWITH CONTAINS

**RESTRICTED DATA**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(Insert proper classification)

Lewis L. Strauss  
 Chairman

This material contains information affecting the national defense within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794, and the transmission or revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

Attachment:  
**HANDTACK Test Program**

Honorable Carl T. Durham  
 Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
 Congress of the United States

SO: Addre w/atts. 1B  
 2CC: Cong. Comm. w/atts. 2B  
 CC: Chairman  
 Gen. Manager  
 Secretariat

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2-12-58