



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10/18/57

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Dear Mr. Fields:

In formulating a military observer program for **HARDTACK** it has become apparent that the proposed UN participation announced in our joint public release of September 15, 1957, will have a decided effect on the composition of other attending groups and the type of information which might be disclosed to them.

From studies which have been made at staff level to date, it appears certain that accomplishment of the purpose of UN participation will necessitate the release of information on the nuclear weapons or devices of a character which has been denied heretofore to those allies with whom we have bilateral agreements for cooperation under Section 144(b) of the Atomic Energy Act. Specifically, it appears that the UN agency must be afforded information as to the total and fission yields of the selected device or weapon either by direct transmission of such information from our own measurements or through the use of their own instruments and diagnostic techniques. The former procedure would not appear to be consistent with the terms of the proposal. In either case joint declassification action would appear to be necessary before entering into arrangements for UN participation. Further, to the extent to which it may be useful for joint defense planning, equivalent information should be made available to those allies with whom we have cooperative agreements before it is released for general public consumption.

As indicated above, the nature of the UN participation will have considerable bearing on other observer programs as to composition, timing and classification of information to be furnished. In view of the time required for OCB consideration, the issuance of invitations, the preparation of briefing material, and the complex

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

Carl Wilson 3/23/84

REVIEWED BY H.R. Schmidt 7/9/85

By W. Trench 3/11/86

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MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL 7 - Hardtack Observer (cont)

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logistic arrangements required of the Joint Task Force, I believe it essential that decision on the UN program be reached as the first order of business. I understand that the Commission is seeking a rational solution to the problem and would appreciate their concept of the UN program at the earliest practicable time.

Sincerely yours,


Herbert B. Loper
Assistant to the Secretary
of Defense (Atomic Energy)

Mr. Kenneth E. Fields
General Manager
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Office of the General Manager

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