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This document consists of [redacted] page
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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
RD-CAE 205/2

September 17,

Mr. Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Brig. Gen. Kenneth E. Fields, Director
Division of Military Application

Thru: The Chairman, Military Liaison Committee to the
Atomic Energy Commission

Dear Mr. Strauss:

Consideration of the effects of nuclear weapons, parti
those with high yields, indicates that radioactive fall-out
contamination are among their most important characteristics
indeed may be one of the factors governing their use in some
situations.

It also appears that it may be possible to control to
considerable extent, by different weapon designs, the relati
amounts of long-lived radioactive products per megaton of to
energy yield. It is understood that the AEC is gathering in
tion as to special materials which could be added or substit
enhance or diminish the radioactive contamination.

For your information, the Department of Defense is co
the broad aspects of the contamination problem as well as th
detailed operational factors which would influence the degre
contamination. These studies when combined with the results
your investigation should enable the Department of Defense t
decide whether or not there is need for high yield weapons w
different contaminating characteristics than those for which
military characteristics are now specified.

Cooperation of the AEC is requested in the investigati
this problem. The immediate need is for a better understand
of all the pertinent facts.

Sincerely,

/s/

Donald A. Quarles

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