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September 27, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN STRAUSS

Dear Lewis:

This is in reply to your memorandum of September 9th answering my memorandum of August 30th concerning weapon testing.

With regard to Continental Tests, I am pleased to know that the President has approved T-401 as requested by your letter to him of August 30th.

As to my reference to General Fields' remarks at the joint AEC-NSA meeting on July 23rd concerning Pacific tests, the minutes of that meeting contain the following statement:

"General Fields commented that current plans do not include any overseas operations in which AEC will be primarily engaged until 1956".

I continue to question whether this decision, of which I was unaware and in which I did not participate, is consistent with optimum progress in weapons development.

Regarding your statement that "we should accelerate our weapons testing program when there is anything new to be learned, theory to be tested, or design to be proofed"; I should like to discuss at Executive Session the advisability of circulating such a statement to Los Alamos, Livermore and other activities involved in testing. I believe that something of this nature is required in order to add impetus to our test operations and so contribute to advancing our weapons development program.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Cy to Dr. Smyth
Mr. Campbell
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Snapp

Thomas T. Murray
Commissioner

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/CC
Carl Wilson 3/26/84
REVIEWED BY T. Fehner 3/18/86
DATE

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