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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NW 972006A
By pm / JC Date 7/27/05

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UNITED STA[illegible]
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

This document consists of 3 pages
No. 1 of 10 Copies, Series A

November 23, 1957

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Dear Mr. President:

On August 2, 1957 I wrote you concerning Operation HARDTACK, the nuclear test series planned for the Spring of 1958 at the Eniwetok Proving Ground. I pointed out that the then estimated number of nuclear shots for the series was 25, that it was planned to initiate the series as early as possible and that this date appeared to be April 1, 1958. My letter also requested that you note that the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defense were proceeding with preparations for the series. On August 9 you discussed the matter of HARDTACK with me and approved starting the series as early as possible, directing that the number of nuclear shots be held to the minimum necessary for attaining the essential defense objectives.

Pursuant to your approval we have gone forward with preparations for the series. It is apparent now that, if the necessary scientific objectives are to be realized in the shortest test period and at least cost, the first shot should be fired on or about April 15. The remaining shots would follow as quickly thereafter as devices could be emplaced and desired weather conditions occur.

The Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense have reviewed individually and collectively our planned firings with the objective of reducing the number to the minimum consistent with fulfilling essential defense objectives. Approximately 17 laboratory diagnostic shots will be required to fulfill needed Department of Defense weapons applications and to examine "clean" designs in a variety of yields. In addition, the Department of Defense must conduct five weapons effects tests. Three of these are intended to determine high altitude detonation phenomena connected with missile and counter-missile design. Two are designed to examine the effect on vessels of a detonation of the same magnitude as that of the new atomic depth charge soon to enter stockpile. [redacted]

This latter matter is under intensive study and you will be asked to review our plans at an early date.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEW-DATE: 06/13/02
AUTHORITY: DAOC DADC DADD
NAME: [illegible]
2ND REVIEW-DATE: 10/10/02
AUTHORITY: ADD
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DETERMINATION [CIRCLE NUMBER(S)]
1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
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7. OTHER (SPECIFY): DP791-793

DOE 6.1(a)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: DOE ORDER 5650.2B
REVIEWER (ADD):
NAME: W. Chrobak
DATE: 03/31/95
DETERMINATION [CIRCLE NUMBER(S)]
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[redacted] DOE 6.1(a)

The design of several of the devices concerned is not yet firm and it is not possible to specify at the moment the exact amounts of nuclear materials to be expended. In January I shall submit to you a listing of the shots planned, their individual objectives, and the amounts of nuclear materials concerned.

[redacted] DOE 6.1(a) We would plan to fire these safety shots in Nevada during December 1957. No significant nuclear reaction is expected from the firings and no hazard offsite. [redacted] DOE 6.1(a)

The Atomic Energy Commission is making every effort to insure that the fission yield of the series and the offsite fallout is held to the minimum. [redacted] DOE 6.1(a)

[redacted]

[redacted]

The contribution to world-wide fallout from these 23 firings would be slightly greater than from REDWING, but less than half of that from CASTLE. [redacted] DOE 6.1(a)

In the interest of reducing to the minimum the number of shots in HARDTACK and of minimizing overall testing costs, we would plan to fire two or three very small yield nuclear shots in the existing tunnel at the Nevada Test Site after HARDTACK has been completed. These would be of the same or lesser yield than the shot fired there on September 19 and under conditions where the radioactivity would be totally confined within the earth.

During the preparation for this test series, there will be a continual and further review, particularly from a technical point of view, of the necessity of each shot. This review will include an examination by the General Advisory Committee of the scientific necessity for the laboratories' exploratory and developmental tests.

Respectfully yours,

Lewis Strauss

Chairman

The President
The White House

[redacted] DOE 6.1(a)

December 3, 1957
The White House

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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