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NW 972006A
BJ DM HC Date 7/25/85

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REPOSITORY AT: JAE NARA/College Park

COLLECTION RG 326 51-59 Inventory Subj: Request for GAC opinion on test shot

BOX No. 182 (NN3-326-93-010) T-4

FEB 12 1958

FOLDER MEA 7 Handtack, VL

Dr. Warren C. Johnson, Chairman,
General Advisory Committee
to the Atomic Energy Commission

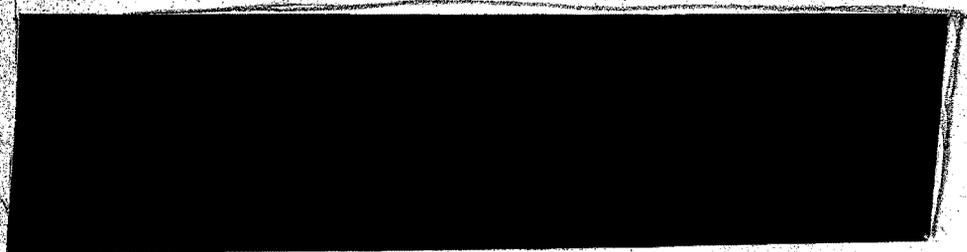
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>03/31/95</u>	TERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: <input type="checkbox"/> ACC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADD <input type="checkbox"/> DD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>W. Chiswick</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>4-8-95</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: ADD	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: <u>DC York</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

Dear Dr. Johnson:

WITHOUT ENCL/ATTACHMENTS

The University of California Radiation Laboratory initiated the technique of testing nuclear devices fully contained underground with the 1.7 KT HANMER event in Operation PLUMBBOB in September 1957. This test was successful and the debris and fallout from the device was contained completely.

The UCRL has recommended an additional 20 to 40 KT device for firing underground at NTS in late 1958 in Operation MILLRACE to investigate the technique of testing higher yield devices underground, prior to completion of UCRL plans for the full-scale Operation TRUMPET series at NTS in the Spring of 1959. UCRL considers the 20 to 40 KT test to be a step in proving the capability of testing devices with yields of 200 KT and higher underground at NTS. UCRL desires to fire as many of their TRUMPET devices underground as is necessary and practicable, to avoid the fallout problem and associated weather delays. Candidates for the 20 to 40 KT shot include:



Doc
6. 1(a)

Some of the logistical and technical factors involved in readying the 20 to 40 KT shot for firing in late 1958 are outlined in the attached letter from UCRL to DIA, dated October 4, 1957.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>02/04/02</u>	TERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: <input type="checkbox"/> ACC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADD <input type="checkbox"/> DD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>William Stewart</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>10/02/02</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: ADD	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: <u>WASA</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): <u>50-318-39</u>

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RESTRICTED DATA

OFFICE	Test 4438	MA: LPCase	MA: GBStewart	MA: ADStarbird	Gen. Mer.
SURNAME	EA5blue/glg				
DATE DECLASSIFIED	2/16/58	2/158	2/158	2/158	2/158

NW: 972006A
BJ DM HC Date 7/25/85

NNDD 972006A-318

MA: NO

Mr. Warren C. Johnson

- 2 -

In January 1958 the Director of Military Application presented to the Commission for consideration the recommended nuclear test schedule for calendar year 1958 (copy attached). In his report the Director of Military Application acknowledged the recommendation by UCRL that the 20 to 40 KT shot be included in Operation MILEAGE. Recognizing the advantages of such a shot, he expressed the belief that fall or winter 1958 is not an expedient time to conduct a relatively high yield test at NTS between the Spring 1958 RTB series (Operation BARTON) and the Spring 1959 RTB series (Operation TRUMPET) in view of current international tension over the rate of nuclear testing. Also, the ability to conclude the post-shot investigation and analysis of results from such a test in sufficient time to use the results in Operation TRUMPET planning was considered doubtful. For these reasons, the Director of Military Application stated that he was disapproving the UCRL proposal for subject shot in Operation MILEAGE.

During discussion of the 1958 test program on January 22, 1958, the Commissioners requested that the GAC be asked for their opinion on the underground testing of the 20 to 40 KT device late in 1958 as proposed by UCRL. UCRL has indicated that construction of the 4,000 foot tunnel required for the 20 to 40 KT shot should be initiated in February 1958 or as soon thereafter as possible, if the test is to be conducted in 1958. Accordingly, it is requested that the GAC consider this item in its February 27 - March 1 meeting.

Sincerely yours,

General Manager

RECEIVED
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Office of the Secretary

Attachment:

- (1) Schedule of Tests - CY 1958
- (2) UCRL Letter - BY 57-70, dtd Oct 4, 1957

FEB 13 1958

M.P.
AEC-B
M.A.

- 1A & 2A: Addce w/attach Cy 1 thru 10 A and Cy 1 thru 10 AWC-B
- 3A: Gen. Mgr.
- 4A: Secretariat
- 5A: Test Subj (Retained)
- 6A: Test Reader
- 7A: Reader
- 8A: Locator
- 9A: DMA Files w/attach Cy 11 of Schedule of Tests - CY 1958 and Cy 11 AWC-B of UCRL letter as stated above

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.2

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NW: 972006A
E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.2

OFFICE ▶	Test	MA:LPG:sc	MA:CEStewart	MA:ADStarbird	Gen. Mgr.		
SURNAME ▶	EAS/ue/slg						
DATE ▶	2/6/58	2/ /58	2/ /58	2/ /58	2/ /58	2/ /58	