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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, particularly 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 a considerable extent, by different weapon designs, the relative amounts of long-lived radioactive products per megaton of total energy yield. It is understood that the AEC is gathering information as to special materials which could be added or substituted to enhance or diminish the radioactive contamination.

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

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

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sincerely,

/s/

Donald A. Quarles

Handwritten notes:
4/13/91
415 DDA Stewart DOE
414-225-1/31/70
per B. Steyer 7/28/72

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