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By DM LSA Date 7/27/05

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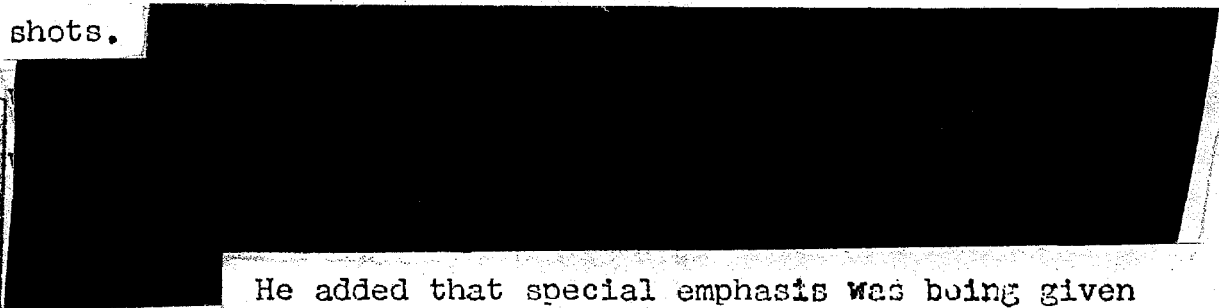
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313th AEC 12. AEC 952/19 - Test Activities for Calendar Year 1958

Meeting  
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General Starbird reviewed the recommendations of AEC 952/19 - Test Activities for Calendar Year 1958, which includes the proposed test program for Operation HARDTACK.

Mr. Strauss reiterated the President's position that both the number of shots and the amount of world-wide fallout projected for the test program needed to be reduced. Mr. Strauss pointed out that both of these objectives would be best accomplished by elimination of one of the two high-yield, high-altitude effects shots.



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He added that special emphasis was being given to the high-altitude test program because of its bearing on future missile defense plans.

Mr. Libby said that it would be advisable to defer action on the proposed program for Operation HARDTACK until the GAC had conducted its review. General Starbird noted that presidential approval was required in the near future for the two one-point safety tests scheduled for the Nevada Test Site in December 1957. These tests are needed before the full-scale testing during HARDTACK.

The Commissioners directed that the letter to the President be revised to indicate that GAC comments on the proposed test program for HARDTACK are being solicited. After further discussion, the Commission:

- a. Approved conducting Operation HARDTACK, a series of nuclear tests at the Eniwetok Proving Ground, commencing on or about April 15, 1958;

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By DM LSA Date 7/27/05

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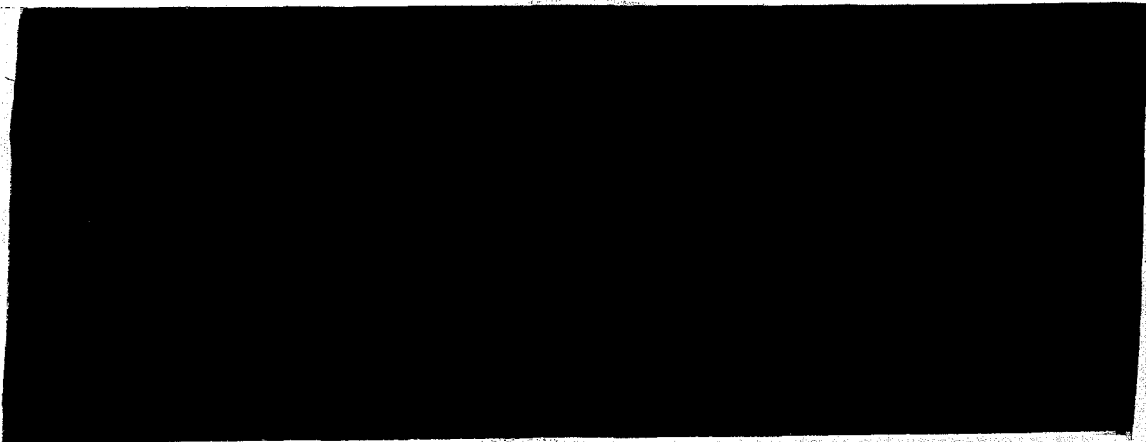
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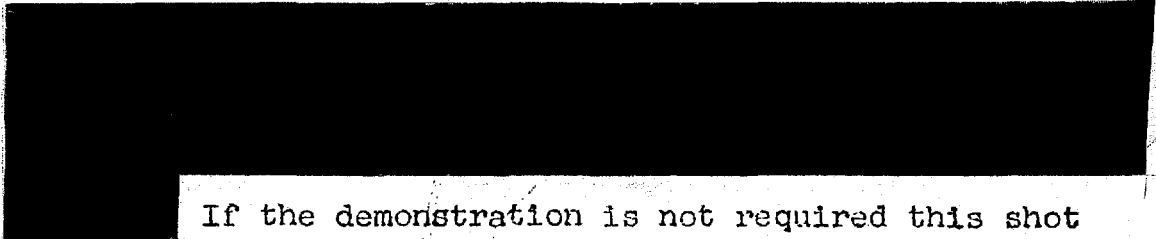
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b. Approved the proposed test program in Appendix "B" to AEC 952/19;



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d. Noted that the test program as given in Appendix "B" to AEC 952/19 includes 3 contingent shots; prior to the firing of any of these devices the Commission will be informed of the decision to fire and the reasons for so proceeding;



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If the demonstration is not required this shot will be deleted from the test program. Recommendations concerning this shot are being circulated to the Commission concurrently as AEC 952/20;

f. Noted that the test schedule for operation HARDTACK will be given to the Commission as soon as it is firm, and that the Commission will be kept informed of changes to the schedule;

g. Noted that Department of Defense comments on and support of the test operation will be requested by letter to the Military Liaison Committee such as that in Appendix "D" to AEC 952/19;

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h. Noted that the Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN will be designated the Senior AEC Representative during the operational phase of Operation HARDTACK, as has been done during past test operations at the Eniwetok Proving Ground;

i. Noted that Presidential approval of the plans for Operation HARDTACK will be requested by letter such as that in Appendix "E" to AEC 952/19 as revised, after receiving the comments of the DOD. This letter also requests authorization to expend the nuclear materials required for the two one-point safety tests at NTS prior to the start of HARDTACK;

j. Noted that the requirements for expenditure of nuclear materials for the other HARDTACK tests will be presented to the Commission as soon as possible; and that Presidential authorization for expenditure for the nuclear materials required for the other HARDTACK tests will be requested after Commission approval of the amounts required;

k. Noted that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will be informed of the test plans by appropriate letter after receiving Presidential approval of the test series;

l. Noted that the Federal Civil Defense Administration will be informed of the test plans by appropriate letter after receiving Presidential approval of the test series;

m. Noted that a Public Information Plan will be prepared and submitted for Commission approval at the earliest practicable date;

n. Noted that the Department of State and the Operations Coordinating Board will be informed of the test plans;  
and

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o. Noted that the General Advisory Committee will be briefed on the HARDTACK program during their visit to Los Alamos on November 21-23, and their comments on the program will be transmitted to the Commission.

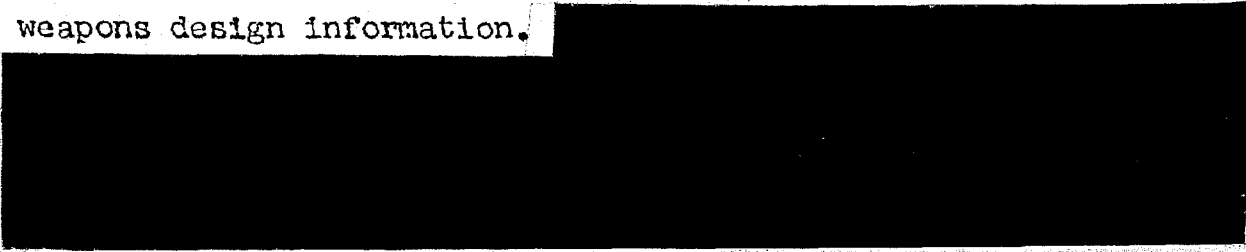
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13. AEC 952/20 - Demonstration Shot for HARDTACK

Under consideration was AEC 952/20 - Demonstration Shot for HARDTACK, which presents alternative approaches to the firing of a proven clean design for the purpose of demonstrating to a United Nations observation team that the U.S. has produced nuclear weapons having a greatly reduced fallout.

Mr. Libby commented on the expense and the practical difficulties posed by such a demonstration shot. General Starbird noted that, since the proposed demonstration shot involved the danger of compromising classified information, the President could be advised that the effectiveness of clean design could not be convincingly demonstrated without revealing weapons design information.

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Mr. Strauss suggested and the other Commissioners agreed that he present to the President the Commission's position regarding the security hazards of a demonstration shot and request further guidance.

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