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E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.4

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Honorable Robert LeBaron  
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee  
to the Atomic Energy Commission

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: DOE Order 5456.2B	TERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO 4. COORDINATE WITH: 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED 7. OTHER (SPECIFY):
REVIEWER (ADJ): NAME: Alan D. Kue DATE: 5/23/95	

Dear Mr. LeBaron:

Reference is made to our letter of January 2, 1953 which outlined the CASTLE Operation as we contemplated it at that preliminary stage. Since that time in the process of further development and test, it has become apparent that, if feasible, the scope of CASTLE should be increased in the interest of assuring the resolution of factors bearing on emergency capability weapons and special material requirements. At this stage, we believe a program of six shots would assist materially in the above, and, accordingly, we have been working with Joint Task Force Seven on questions of the feasibility of such a program. From their standpoint and ours, it appears practicable to execute a six shot program and to maintain the proposed timing of CASTLE, provided the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense accept such a program and provided the various contributing phases such as special materials production at Oak Ridge remain on schedule.



It is presently planned to detonate two shots at Eniwetok and four at Bikini. The first detonation is scheduled for February 15, 1954, with seven to ten days intervals between shots.

It should be emphasized, however, that the actual scope and plan for execution of CASTLE cannot be fixed until about September. At that time the relevant factors bearing on the merits of the various proposals and on the operational capabilities and limitations both of material production and of a Task Force nature will be more complete. We hope crystallization of these factors will be sufficient at that time to enable us to reach agreement on the specific scope for CASTLE.

Circulated in aec 597/17, 6/19/53.

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COLLECTION: 1951-58  
BOX NO.: 208 CLASSIFIED  
FOLDER: #3 MRA-7 CASTLE

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 08/27/01 AUTHORITY: 10 CFR 101.11 NAME: Betty A. Hays END REVIEW DATE: 11/16/01 AUTHORITY: ADJ NAME: [Signature]	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: CRD 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO 4. COORDINATE WITH: 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED 7. OTHER (SPECIFY): PD-35-02

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In the meantime, we would appreciate assurance that the Department of Defense concurs that planning should proceed on the basis of an augmented CASTLE as described above, subject to final resolution of specific plans this Fall, and that all concerned can proceed into the operational phase of CASTLE on the same basis as we did in the IVY Operation, which proved so successful.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Dean  
Chairman

*[Faint, illegible handwritten notes and markings]*

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1ST REVIEW-DATE: 08/27/01	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: <input type="checkbox"/> DOC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADG <input type="checkbox"/> ADD	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <i>Billy A. Hoover</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
2ND REVIEW-DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: ADD	<input type="checkbox"/> 4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME:	<input type="checkbox"/> 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

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U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

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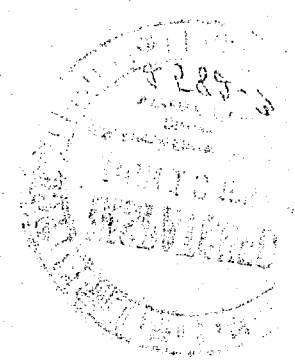
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