

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SAC 200164160000

REPOSITORY NARA - College Park June 12 1958  
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COLLECTION 1951-58

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BOX No. 208 CLASSIFIED  
#5 MRA HARDTACK

Dear Mr. President: FOLDER

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On January 29, 1958, I wrote informing you of our plans for nuclear testing in calendar year 1958 and requested authority to expend the nuclear materials involved. The major series contemplated at that time, and at present, was Operation HARDTACK to be conducted in the Pacific beginning in April. A secondary small series of relatively low yield underground shots called Operation MILLRACE was planned for conduct in the Nevada Test Site during the fall of 1958. Certain safety firings, from which no significant nuclear yield is expected, were to be fired at the Nevada Test Site as needed during the year. By indorsement dated January 31, 1958, you approved conduct of the HARDTACK program and the spring safety firings and the expenditure of nuclear materials required, but withheld approval of the MILLRACE operation pending further consideration. Also, on May 1, 1958, you approved HARDTACK-ARGUS, a project to be conducted by the Department of Defense as an adjunct to Operation HARDTACK.

The planned HARDTACK operation as already approved by you involved 20 scheduled laboratory diagnostic shots, 5 scheduled Department of Defense shots for the observation of weapons effects, the firing of a reduced fission device for demonstration to U.N. observers and the possible firing of two laboratory "contingent shots." Firing of these latter two would depend on the outcome of certain other shots in the series.

Since January 31, two safety shots have been conducted successfully in Nevada. Also, and as already reported orally to you, the Pacific series was initiated with a first nuclear firing on April 28. A total of 15 nuclear shots had been fired as of June 10th. Several of the new devices have produced very disappointing results and, because of the importance of the weapon programs involved, it is highly desirable that follow-up tests be included in HARDTACK. Also, as a result of recent weapon research activity within the laboratories and in response to a special request from the Department of Defense as to the need for early development of specified systems, other selected shots should be added to the Pacific program. Therefore, we propose to:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW  
1ST REVIEW DATE: 08/27/01  
AUTHORITY: DAOC DAOC DAOC  
NAME: Betty Harris  
2ND REVIEW DATE: 11/7/01  
AUTHORITY: AOD  
NAME: Aron...  
DETERMINATION (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  
OTHER (SPECIFY): PP 35-38

RESTRICTED DATA

This document contains... information...  
X-017112 - President, Office

6401-4929-3-3

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.0

MI-972006B Date 8/12/05

also: X-MRA-A-7-Underground Test  
X-MRA-A-9-Long Range Detection

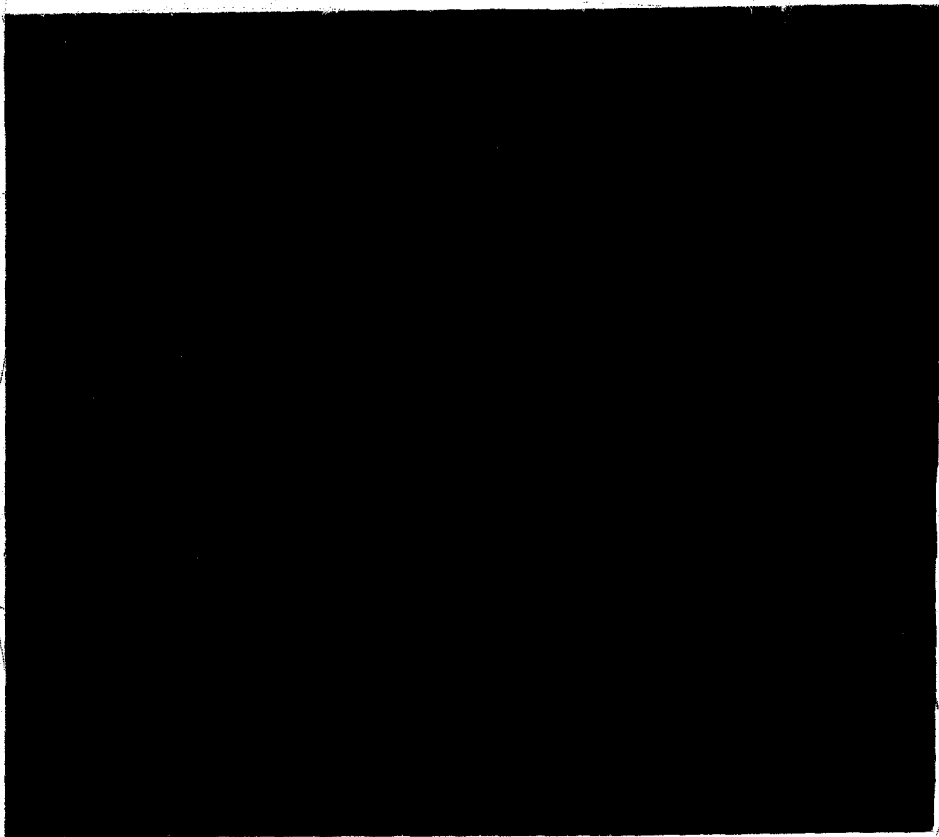
015A20C000127  
972006B-35

a.



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6.1(a)

b. Add to the HARDTACK series, subject to your approval:



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6.1(a)

DOE  
6.1(a)

We request that you approve the addition to the series of the firings listed in b. above.

Considering the weather delays to date, the total program (exclusive of the UN demonstration shot) should be completed by late August. The UN demonstration shot would be fired at Eniwetok Atoll as soon as possible after the high altitude Johnston Island shots, - estimated as ready in very late August and to be fired as soon thereafter as weather permits.

The President

- 3 -

Danger areas will be in existence concurrently at the Eniwetok Proving Ground and Johnston Island for a period of approximately four weeks during the time Johnston Island will be operational.

In deciding which shots we would recommend for addition to Operation HARDTACK, we considered advancing certain shots now planned for Operation MILLRACE in the fall of 1958 at the Nevada Test Site. In the interest of avoiding further lengthening of HARDTACK, we are not recommending that they be advanced. However, we do feel that certain shots in MILLRACE are extremely important and if for any reason Operation MILLRACE is to be cancelled or postponed, the addition of the MILLRACE shots to Operation HARDTACK should be considered further, and fabrication of the devices should start immediately.

In preparation for Operation MILLRACE and the safety tests at the Nevada Test Site, it has been necessary to initiate construction of tunnels and to proceed with associated on-site construction as well as laboratory planning. The scale of preparation is, of course, increasing with each passing week. We request, therefore, your approval for the conduct of Operation MILLRACE at the Nevada Test Site as follows:

- a. A series of five small diagnostic shots all underground starting in late fall. One of the five tests would be the firing of a device to meet a military need for a nuclear warhead for medium artillery. It would have a yield of less than a kiloton.

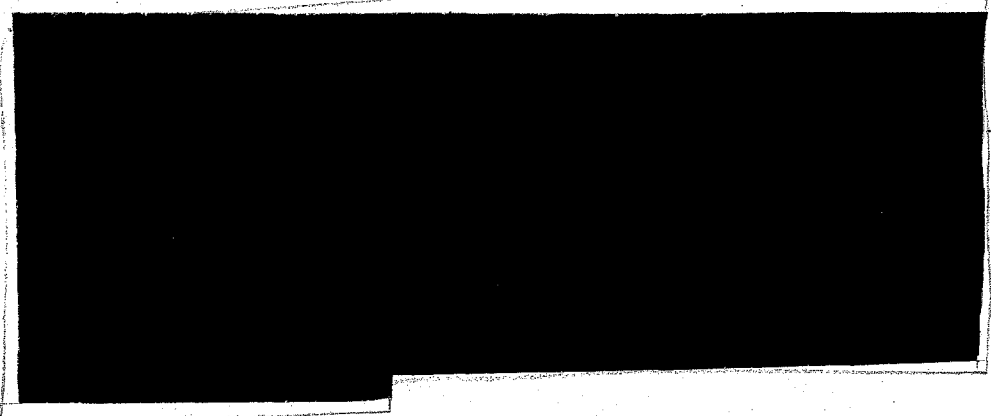
b.



DOE  
6.1(a)

The President

-4-



DOE  
(b.1(a))

c. The firing underground as ready and needed of some eight safety tests from which no significant nuclear reaction is expected.



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(b.1(a))

Respectfully yours,

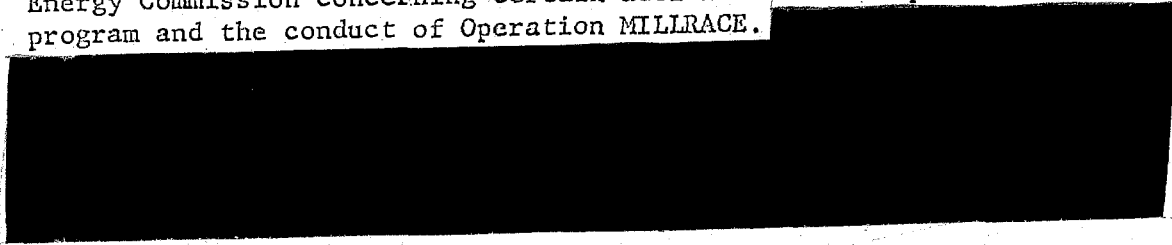
*Lewis Strauss*

Chairman

The President  
The White House

Endorsement

I hereby approve the above recommendations of the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission concerning certain additions to the Operation HARDTACK program and the conduct of Operation MILLRACE.



DOE  
(b.1(a))

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 5.3

New 972006 B  
By DM Lca Date 8/2/05

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*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
Dwight D. Eisenhower

-38