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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
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August 15, 1951

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

Dear Mr. LeBaron:

In the Fall of 1950 the weapons development plans of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory anticipated the need for a full-scale weapons test in the Spring of 1952, probably at the Eniwetok Proving Grounds. In our memorandum of December 20, 1950, we acquainted you with our tentative plans for such a test and requested Department of Defense support for it.

As you know, the results of RANGER and GREENHOUSE have added materially to our knowledge, both in the field of fission weapons and in the thermonuclear field. We do not know believe that a thermonuclear device will be ready for testing prior to the Winter of 1952-53. Meanwhile, we believe that our Nevada Test Site will satisfy our requirements for fission weapons tests until that time.

Oct. or Nov. '52

Informally we understand that JTF-132 has already been activated to assume the residual responsibilities of JTF-3 as well as to furnish the support we requested for the next Eniwetok test. To assist in planning, we suggest that this change to a later date be brought to the attention of the Commander, JTF-132.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

/s/

Sumner T. Pike
Acting Chairman

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Patricia Nolan Bodin 8/21/97
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