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AUTHENTICATED January 2 1953
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
BY: [Signature]
DOCUMENT NO. 21-24-8A

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

Dear Mr. LeBaron:

Reference is made to your letter of November 3, 1952* and my
answer of December 15, 1952,* concerning plans for CASTLE.

The results of the IVY thermonuclear experiment indicate
certain reorientation of the thermonuclear weapons program
in order to insure broad and rapid progress in this activity.
The revised program and its bearing on the timing of the
CASTLE Operation are discussed below.

[Redacted] It is now apparent that material
availability for this weapon indicates November as the earliest
possible date for its full-scale test.

DOE
6.1(a)

[Redacted]

DOE
6.1(a)

The Mike device behaviour leads us to believe that adaptation of
its design to a weapon or weapons offers real promise.

DOE
6.1(a)

[Redacted] To convert the Mike
type design to a weapon configuration, however, involves a great
amount of engineering and process development and test, includ-
ing a number of important tests now scheduled for the UPSHOT
series in the Spring of 1953.

DOE
6.1(a)

[Redacted]

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GROUP 1
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* Secretariat note - Circulated in AEC 597
** Secretariat note - circulated in AEC 597/3

1-2-53

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FOLDER #3 MRA-7 CASTLE

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

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972006B-15

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: DOE Order 5650-28
REVIEWER NAME: [Signature]
DATE: 5/23/95

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEW DATE: 08/27/01
AUTHORITY: EO 13526
2ND REVIEW DATE: 01/28/02
AUTHORITY: DOE

By [Signature] DATE 3-18-64

[Redacted]

DoE
6.1 (a)

We believe, however, that at least one and probably both of them will emerge as possible for test and emergency capability early in 1954.

[Redacted]

DoE
6.1 (a)

We believe that such a course is indicated because it offers increased promise for obtaining a capability in thermonuclear weapons in early 1954.

We realize that the above suggested plan has a major impact on military planning as well as on the supporting Task Force. With the opening of these several avenues for advance in thermonuclear weapon development, and with the emphasis that is being placed on the program, a possibility still exists that one weapon model may unexpectedly develop ahead of the others to the point where it becomes feasible and advantageous to proof-test this model in the Fall of 1953. To be able to take advantage of this possibility should it arise, it would be desirable for the JTF to retain the capability of mounting a much simpler operation on an emergency basis in the Fall of 1953.

In view of the importance of this program, your early comments are requested.

Sincerely yours,

H. D. Smyth
Acting Chairman

Division of
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Office of the Secretary

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