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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 22 1957

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Dear Mr. Strauss:

404254

Your letter of May 10, 1957 to the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee indicated that the Commission is considering the use of Taongi Atoll for the purpose of conducting nuclear experiments. Your letter requested a Department of Defense opinion as to the desirability of such use of Taongi Atoll, a statement of the Department's ability to support the additional site and concurrence in arrangements for its use.

The Department agrees that there are some very desirable features in the proposal, particularly with regard to the reduced probability of fallout on inhabited areas. These features were considered in relation to the initial cost of placing the Atoll in operation and the additional cost involved in the Department's support of a new test site. In view of the already high estimated costs of the Department's share of the Hardtack program, we are looking for ways to reduce, rather than to increase, costs. Consideration was also given to the likely public reaction to an announcement that an additional test site had been obtained in the face of an apparent international trend toward limitation of testing.

On the basis of these considerations the Department of Defense has concluded it would not be desirable to undertake the proposed use of Taongi Atoll at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert B. Loper

Herbert B. Loper
Assistant to the Secretary
of Defense (Atomic Energy)

Honorable Lewis L. Strauss
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEWER DATE: 6/9/94	DETERMINATION (SEE NUMBER(S))
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REVIEWER: [Signature]	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
DATE: 6-15-94	3. CLASSIFICATION NO LONGER APPLIED
NAME: [Signature]	4. COORDINATE WITH
	5. DECLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
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