

Handwritten: *Handstark*

REPOSITORY NARA Colley Park  
COLLECTION RG 326 51-58 Secretary  
BOX No. 182 (NU3-326-93-010)  
FOLDER MRA 7 Handstark, v2

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY:	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
REVIEWER (ADD):	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
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DATE:	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
	4. COORDINATE WITH:
	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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Dear Mr. Durham:

On September 17, 1957 I wrote to you concerning our plans for testing in Operation HANDBACK, the spring 1958 test series at the Hanford Proving Ground, and noted that as our plans were further developed, I would keep the Committee informed.

We now have a reasonably firm program of tests in hand which has been approved by the Commission and concurred in by the Department of Defense. Operation HANDBACK will start on or about April 15, 1958, and will consist of about 25 firm laboratory and DGD effects shots. In addition there are two contingent shots whose firing depends on the outcome of their counterparts among the firm shots.

Besides these tests, we plan to conduct up to three safety tests in the spring of 1958 at the Nevada Test Site, beginning on or about February 22, 1958. The purpose of these tests is to determine that, if certain designs are detonated accidentally, no nuclear reaction would occur.

The President has approved the HANDBACK test program and the safety tests in Nevada, and has authorized the expenditure of the required special nuclear materials for these tests. The detailed description of the HANDBACK tests, the devices involved and their objectives is attached.

Sincerely yours,

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
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Attachment:  
HANDBACK Test Program

Honorable Carl T. Durham  
Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
Congress of the United States

SO: Addre w/atts: 1B  
20C: Cong. Comm w/atts: 2B  
CC: Chairman  
Gen. Manager  
Secretariat

Lewis L. Strauss  
Chairman  
This material contains information affecting the national defense...

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