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

408896

AUG 13 1957

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF DOE 5650.2, III-12 (Admin)

BY Jose Diaz DATE 2/25/81

BY Wilbur A. Strouser DATE 2/25/81 *

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Attached is a copy of a letter I recently wrote to the President and which Mr. Loper reviewed prior to its transmittal. On the afternoon of 9 August the President discussed with me the subject of this letter. The Secretary of State was present. In the discussion the President made the following points:

a. He approved our proceeding now with preparations for Operation HARDTACK with a starting date of 1 April 1958. He expressed an interest in starting earlier, but I informed him that April appeared the earliest that a balanced series could be started.

b. He expressed considerable doubt as to the necessity for the number of shots, approximately 25, my letter indicated as probably necessary. He directed that the planned firings be screened to hold to the smallest number practical without losing essential defense objectives. The Commission will screen these shots for weapons developments to see that this direction is met. It is requested that the Department of Defense take appropriate action relative to the military effects shots planned.

c. He directed that, for the early future, there be no public announcement of our preparations, plans, or intent to hold a spring 1958 series. He directed that the preparations be conducted on a classified basis and that, prior to public announcement, he be informed so that he might review the timing and content of the announcement. The Commission will issue necessary instructions to its agencies. It is requested that the Department of Defense take such action as is necessary in this regard.

We are instructing the Director of Military Application of the Commission to coordinate immediately with the Commission agencies concerned, with the

[redacted]

* Secretariat Note: Circulated as AEC 952/12

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Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, with the Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, and with the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, to see that plans go forward according to the President's wishes.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Lewis L. Strauss

Chairman

Enclosure:
Cy 1R, ltr to President
dtd 3-2-57

The Honorable
The Secretary of Defense

[redacted]