

The President

-2-

the Operation. We have reviewed this matter with the Department of Defense and believe that, if the series is limited to essential tests, the series would be initiated about 1 April and be completed within four months. An estimated 25 shots would be involved. It is not possible at this time to specify the exact devices to be fired or the expenditures of material involved.

To meet this schedule, however, we must inform our laboratories that their development effort must be expedited and be directed towards the earlier date, we must expedite the readying of the Joint Task Force which conducts the Operation, and we must expedite the shipment of materials and construction of test facilities. These actions would soon lead to surmise that we were proceeding with preparations for a Pacific test operation to start early in 1958.

We believe most strongly that Operation HARDTACK should begin as early as possible and intend to proceed with the Department of Defense with preparations on this basis. However, in view of the disarmament negotiations under way, we believe you would desire to be informed of this fact prior to our proceeding. We request, therefore, that you note that we shall proceed immediately to make plans and preparations for initiating Operation HARDTACK as early as possible and shall submit to you later a more definite listing of devices to be fired and of materials to be expended.

Respectfully yours,

Chairman

The President
The White House

Cy 1A&2A: Addee
3A: Gen Mgr
4A: Cfm
5A: Secretariat ✓
6A: Test Subj
7A: Test Rdr
8A: Reader
9A: Locator
10A: DMA

R&D

Budget

8-2-57

8-

-57