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October 14, 1957

AEC 952/16

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

REVIEW OF PROGRAM FOR OPERATION HARDTACK

Note by the Secretary

The General Manager has requested that the attached report by the Director of Military Application be circulated for the Commission's information in connection with the briefing on this subject on Tuesday, October 22, 1957.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>3-31-95</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED FOR
AUTHORITY: <u>R.H. Smiley</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
DATE: <u>3-31-95</u>	4. COORDINATE WITH:
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1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>03/04/02</u>	1. DETERMINATION [CIRCLE NUMBER(S)]
AUTHORITY: <u>DAAC DAAC DAAC</u>	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>Billy H. Hagan</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED FOR
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>10090</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: <u>AD</u>	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: <u>W. B. McCool</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): <u>PP 323-527</u>

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This document consists of 9 pages

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

REVIEW OF PROGRAM FOR OPERATION HARDTACK

Report to the General Manager by the
Director of Military Application

1. At Meeting 1280 on May 1, 1957 the Commission considered AEC 952/5 (Test Activities for Calendar Year 1958) and:

a. Approved, for the purpose of guidance to the weapons laboratories and other agencies involved in the planning for Operation HARDTACK, the general scope of the test program, described in paragraph 11 (of AEC 952/5), of approximately 27 shots;

b. Noted that the actual test program for Operation HARDTACK would be presented to the Commission for consideration at a later date.

2. On August 2, 1957 the Chairman informed the President by letter (AEC 952/12) of the status of plans for Operation HARDTACK and the general scope of the test program. This letter noted that a series of approximately 25 shots would be initiated about April 1, 1958 and would be completed within four months. It was also noted that a listing of devices to be fired and materials to be expended would be submitted to the President later.

3. On August 9, 1957 the President discussed with the Chairman the subject of the letter of August 2 and, as reported by the Chairman at Meeting 1300 on August 13, 1957:

a. Approved our proceeding now with preparations for Operation HARDTACK with a starting date of April 1, 1958;

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b. Directed that the planned firings (approximately 25) be screened to hold to the smallest number practical without losing essential defense objectives;

c. Requested that every effort be made to shorten the length of the test period.

4. On August 13, 1957 the laboratories and ALOO were informed of the President's desires by a message which stated, in part:

"Personal and eyes only to Bradbury, York Sewell and DiLuzio from Starbird

"In our meeting of 1 August we agreed Commission submission to President of plans for HARDTACK would be on following basis: Approximately 25 shots (of which 5 would be DoD effects shots); series would begin 1 April 1958 (and I added lasting about 4 months). Submission was so made. President expressed interest in starting earlier but was informed that this was earliest balanced series could be started. He was surprised at the high total and directed that number be held to minimum consistent with realizing essential military objective. He directed that plans, preparations and evidence that U.S. intends a series be carried forward on a classified basis and that there be no repeat no public release indicating this intent without his further review. It is evident that he hopes to delay this as public information as long as possible."

As a result of the meeting which followed, the laboratories submitted their proposals for shots to be included in the test program for Operation HARDTACK. The UCRL proposals are contained in a letter from Dr. York dated August 23, 1957 (Appendix "A"). Dr. York has been asked since to screen further his plans. The LASL proposals are contained in a letter from Dr. Bradbury dated September 23, 1957 (Appendix "B").

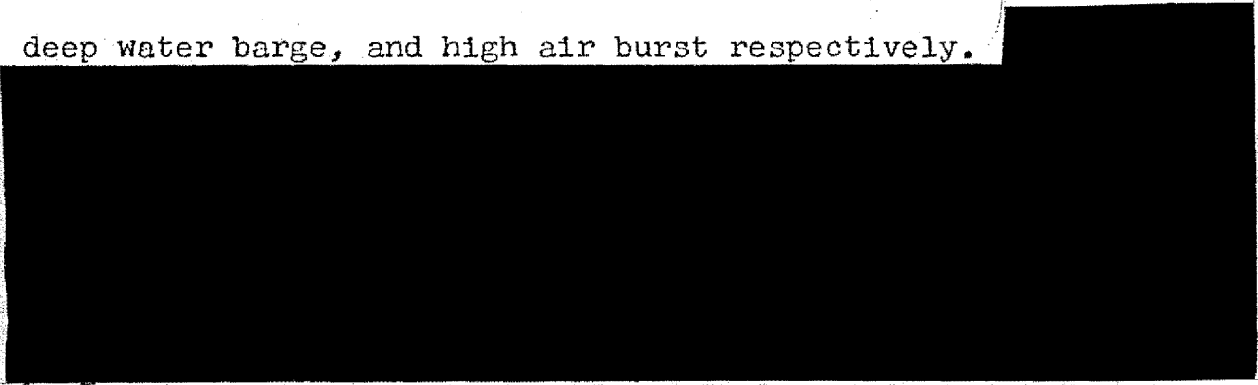
5. The contribution to world-wide fallout of the test shots being considered by the laboratories (and including the 5 shots which are being sponsored by the Department of Defense) has been estimated from the probable total and fission yields. The estimate was based on using 20, 50 and 100 percent of fission yield distributed world-wide for surface or shallow water barge,

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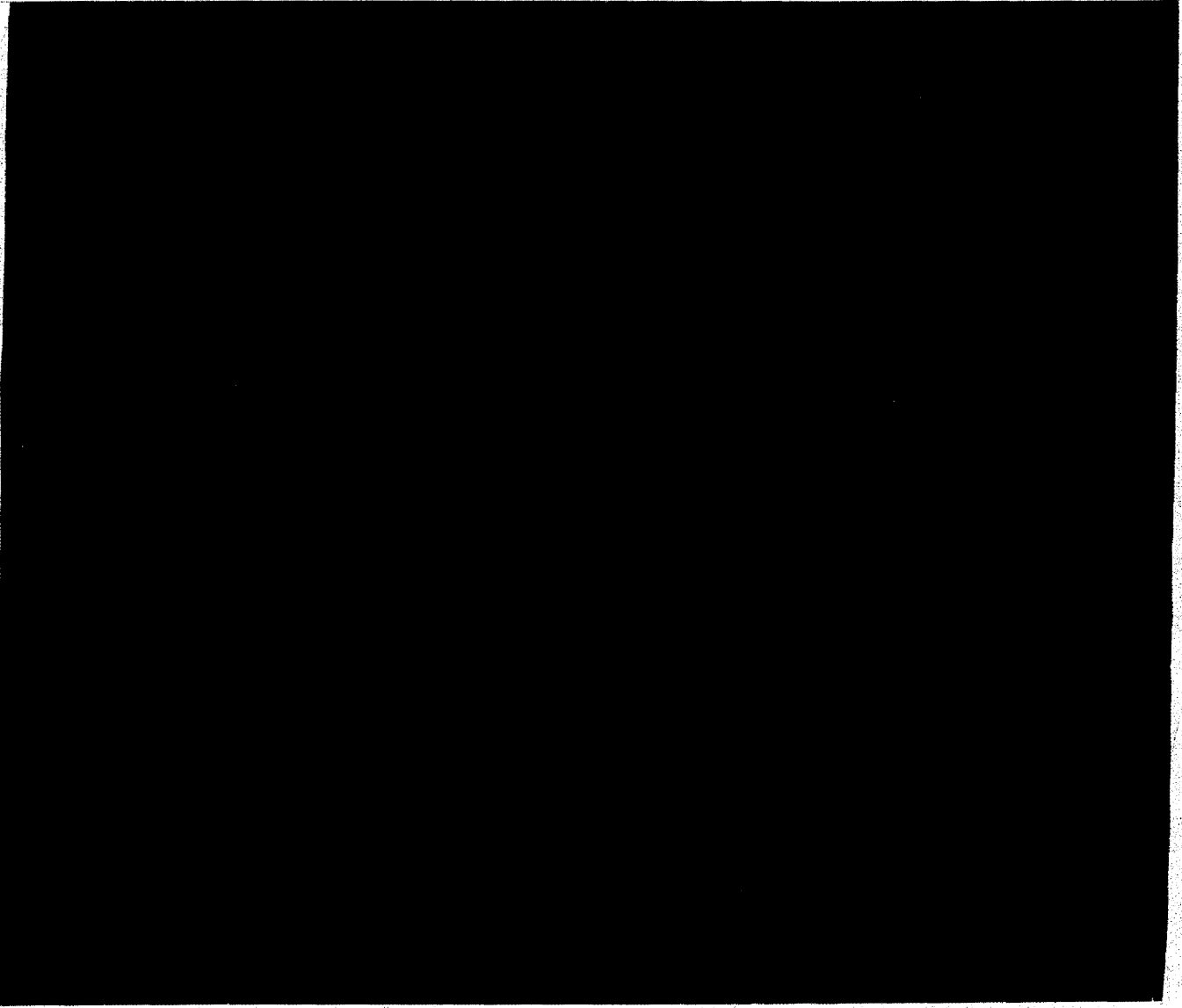
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deep water barge, and high air burst respectively.



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DOE
6.1(a)



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7. The laboratory directors will meet with the Commission for a review of the program for Operation HARDTACK the afternoon of Tuesday, October 22, 1957.

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

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APPENDIX "A"

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Radiation Laboratory
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, California

August 23, 1957

Brig. General A. D. Starbird
Director of Military Application
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Starbird:

This letter gives the UCRL proposals for shots to be fired in Operation Hardtack. It is necessarily tentative because some of it depends on future Plu^{bb}bob results, some of it depends on unresolved problems of relative priorities, and because of still uncertain estimates of what our own capabilities are in view of the shortened between-test interval.

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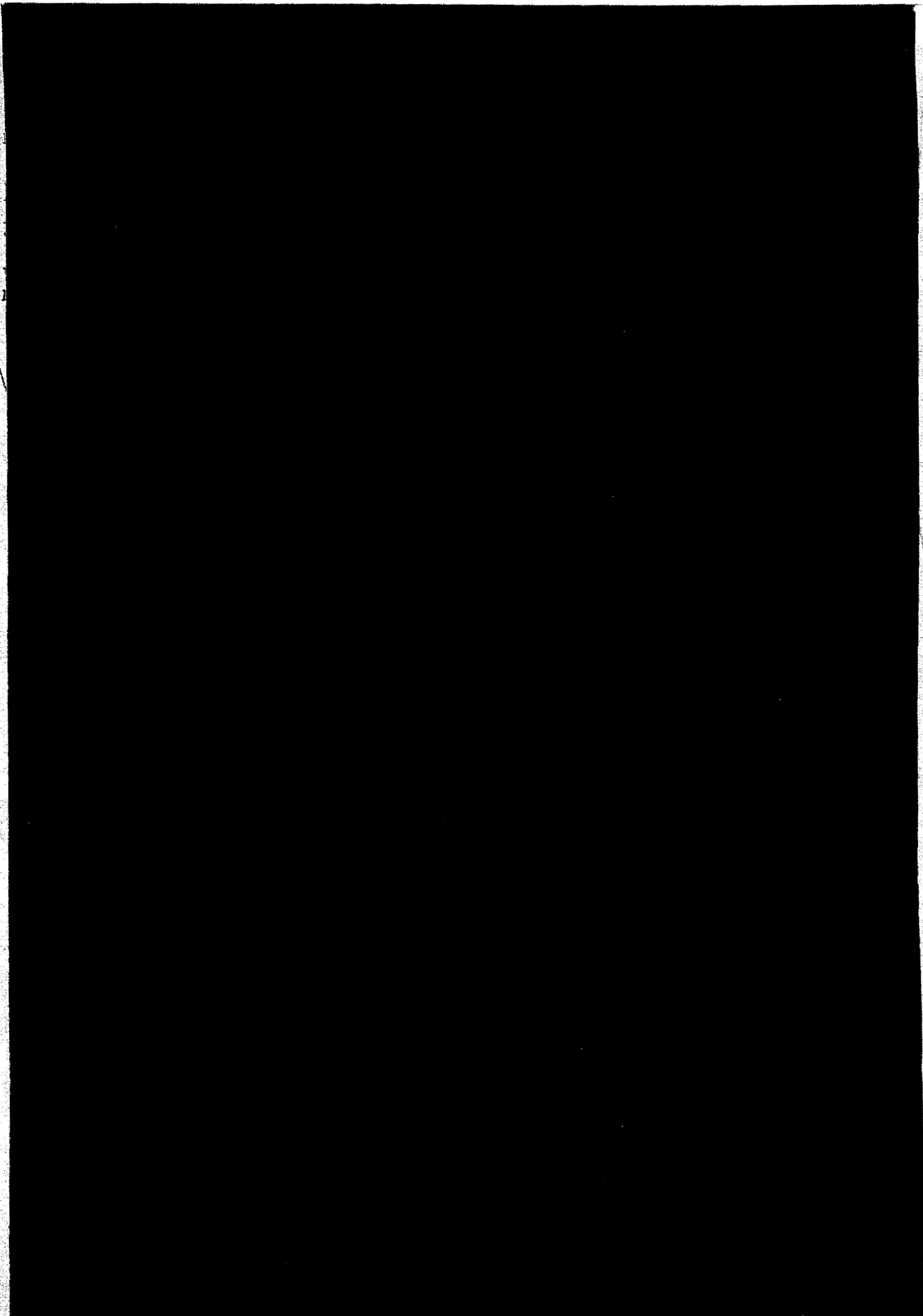
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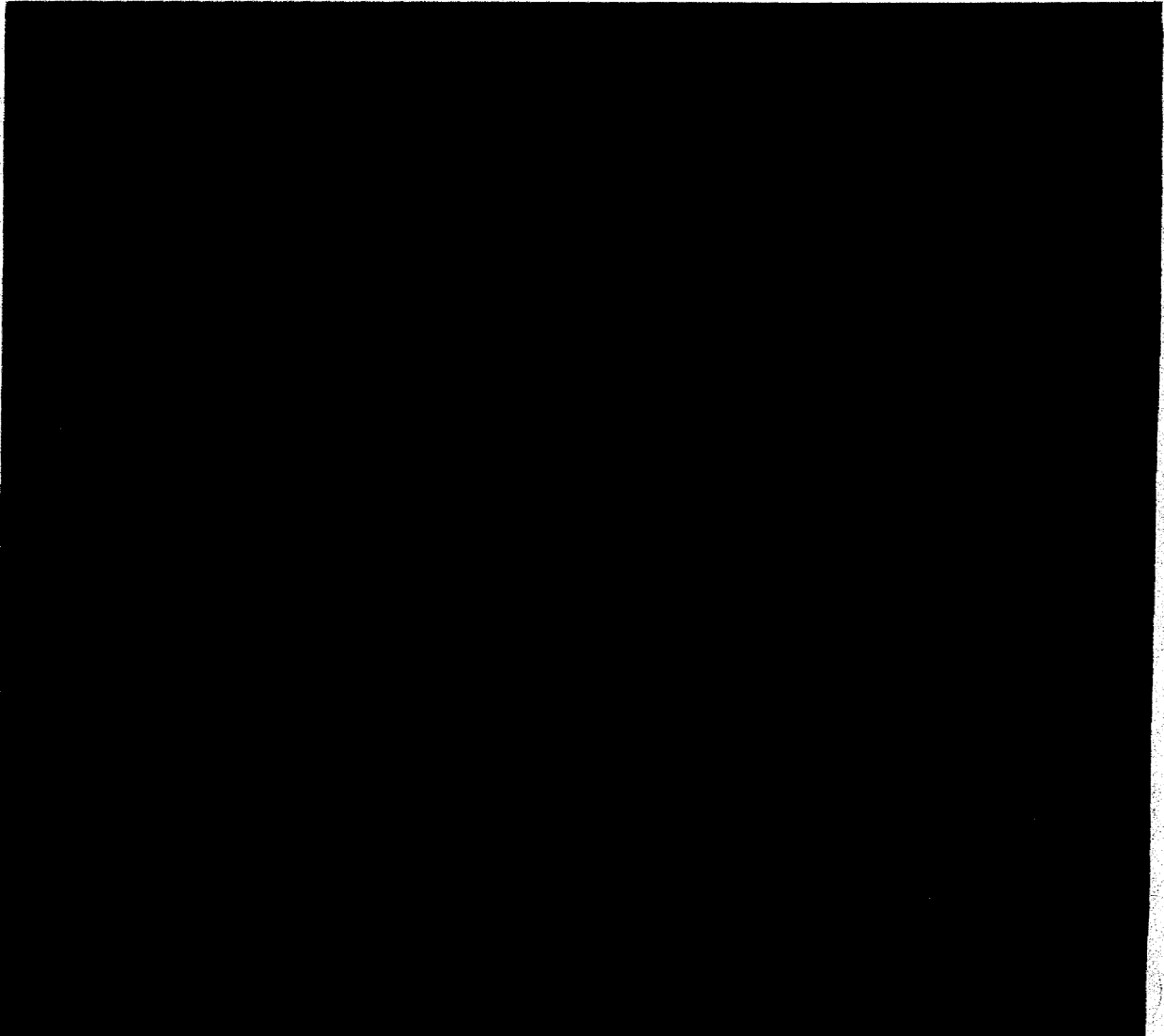
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It is interesting to note that, of the fourteen weapons and devices listed above only the last two satisfy no definite requirement as now spelled in the new JCS list. We, therefore, urge most strongly that we not be limited by anything except our own ability to meet the new schedules, especially if there is any reasonable possibility of this being the last test series.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

HERBERT F. YORK
Director
UCRL-Livermore

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APPENDIX "B"

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY
(CONTRACT W-7405-ENG-36)
P. O. BOX 1663
LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

September 23, 1957

Brig. General A. D. Starbird
Director of Military Application
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Starbird:

The test program for Operation HARDTACK which will be proposed by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory on October 22 - 23 is presently believed to be as follows:

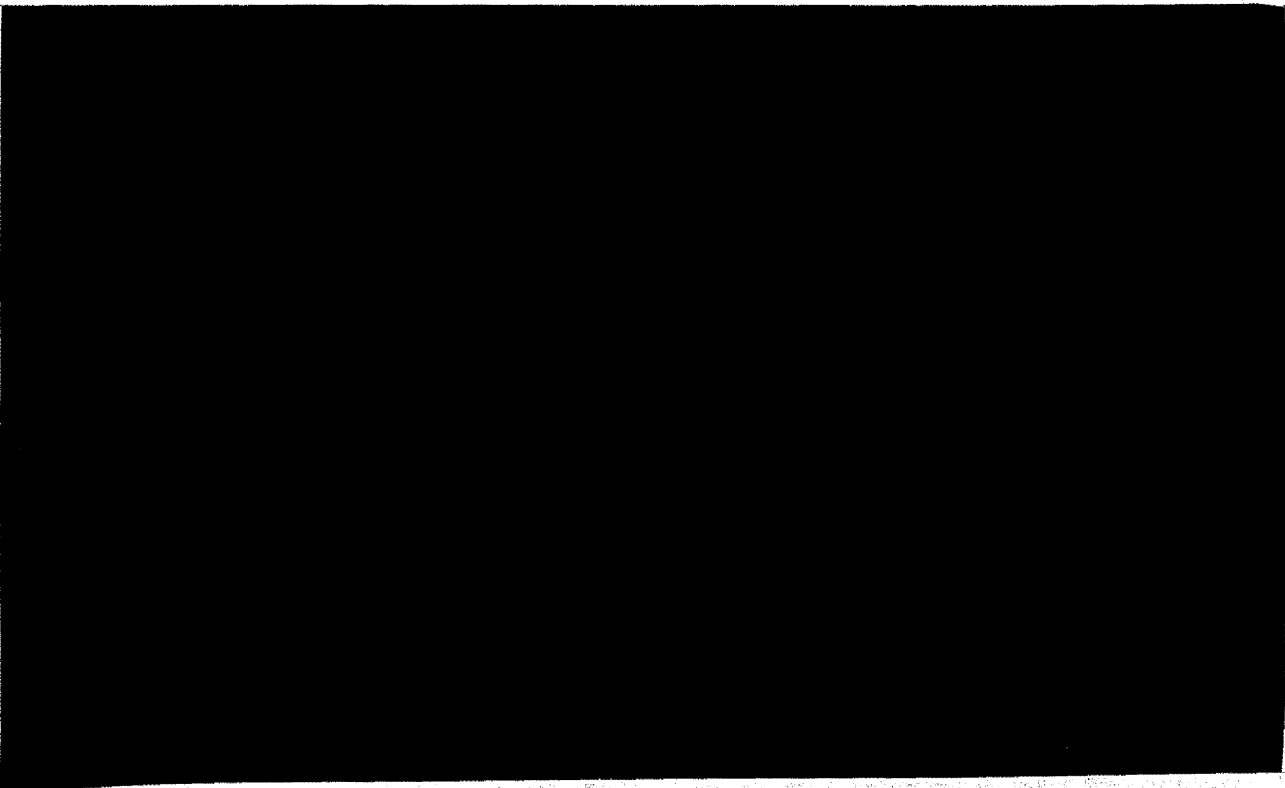


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Sincerely yours,

/s/

N. E. Bradbury
Director

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