

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.3

WNO 1972006  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

S SECRET

AEC 483/2

R

October 25, 1951

COPY NO. 13

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PLANS FOR FUTURE TEST OPERATIONS

Note by the Secretary

Attached for the information of the Commission is a letter dated October 23, 1951, to the Chairman of the MLC in response to a letter of September 19, 1951, circulated previously as AEC 334/14. Also attached, for ease of reference, are two memoranda which are referred to in the October 23 letter.

ROY B. SNAPP

Secretary

REPOSITORY NACA COLLEGE PARK  
RG 326 - Office of the Secretary  
COLLECTION 1951-1958 Correspondence  
BOX No. 209 (NN3-326-93-010)  
FOLDER MCA 7 IVY VOL 1

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW-DATE: <u>09/02/01</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO 4. COORDINATE WITH _____ 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED 7. OTHER (SPECIFY): <u>§ 183 only</u>
AUTHORITY: <u>CAOC/ADG/CIADD</u>	
NAME: <u>William H. Harris</u>	0 <u>This page only</u> <b>THIS PAGE ONLY</b>
2ND REVIEW-DATE: <u>11/21/57</u>	
AUTHORITY: <u>ADD</u>	
NAME: <u>George Hamilton</u>	

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: <u>DOE/CDER 5650-2B</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: _____ 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO 4. COORDINATE WITH _____ 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED 7. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____
REVIEWER (AEC): <u>W. Chubb</u>	
NAME: <u>W. Chubb</u>	
DATE: <u>05/24/95</u>	

WITH ATTACHMENTS/ENCL

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: <u>DOE 00928 5650-2B</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: <u>RD</u> 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO 4. COORDINATE WITH _____ 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED 7. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____
REVIEWER (AEC): <u>W. Chubb</u>	
NAME: <u>W. Chubb</u>	
DATE: <u>6/27/96</u>	

DISTRIBUTION

COPY NO.

- Secretary 1
- Commissioners 2 - 6
- General Manager 7
- Asst. Gen. Mgr. Mfg. 8
- General Counsel 9, 10
- Military Application 11, 12
- Secretariat 13, 14

When separated from enclosures handle this document as.....

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.3

WNO 1972006  
By DM-LSC Date 6/23/05



~~RESTRICTED DATA~~  
This document contains Restricted Data as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and is not to be disclosed subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.

01SA20C000158  
11-12-1983

111-0027  
148-51  
of sheet filed:  
0470-4-MCC

⑦

~~SECRET~~

This document consists of 3 Pages

Copy No. 13 of 14 Series A

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE "A"

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 23, 1951

Dear Mr. LeBaron:

In response to the suggestion made in your letter of 19 September 1951, the Commission will be happy to discuss with you at any time the factors which led to our conclusion that a thermonuclear device will not be ready for testing prior to the Winter of 1952-1953. We can, however, add little to the information supplied by Dr. Bradbury when he addressed the Committee on September 13, 1951.

To the extent that Fall is prior to Winter, the present plan may improve upon our original estimate.

[REDACTED] A special group has been established at Los Alamos charged with the coordination of all the technical tasks essential to the preparation of a thermonuclear device for the test in the Fall of 1952. In addition, the American Car and Foundry Company is undertaking the engineering design of the weapon and fabrication of the less unique parts of the actual device. It is our view that the proposal to design, fabricate and test a full scale model in one year's time is a truly ambitious undertaking and is indicative of the sense of urgency attached by the Commission and its contractors to the determination of the feasibility of a thermonuclear bomb.

The matter of a very high yield weapon was covered in a memorandum of 9 October from the Director of Military Application. While it is not possible at this time to set a date for testing this weapon, we would hope to include it in the next operation to be carried out in the Eniwetok area.

[REDACTED]

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Sumner T. Pike  
Acting Chairman

Honorable Robert LeBaron  
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee  
to the Atomic Energy Commission

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

This document contains Restricted Data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Unauthorized disclosure subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions

~~SECRET~~

Enclosure "A"

1ST REVIEWER: [Signature]
2ND REVIEWER: [Signature]
AUTHORITY: [Signature]
NAME: [Signature]
TERMINATION: [ ]
CLASSIFICATION: [ ]
CONTAINS NO DOG CLASSIFICATION: [ ]
COORDINATE WITH: [ ]
CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED: [ ]
CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED: [ ]
OTHER (SPECIFY): [ ]

THIS PAGE ONLY

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE "B"

MEMORANDUM

October 9, 1951

TO : The Executive Secretary, Military Liaison Committee  
SUBJECT: VERY LARGE YIELD ATOMIC WEAPONS  
SYMBOL : MARD:PMB

[REDACTED]

DS  
6.1

Such a feasibility study is currently in progress and is estimated for completion before 1 June 1952. However, certain preliminary information on the proposed weapon is available at this time prior to completion of the study.

It is expected that a new HE-pit system, usable in the present 60" bomb and yielding something in the general order of magnitude of 500 Kt, can be tested and readied for stockpile within the dates MLC has specified, namely, development completed by 1 January 1953 and stockpile entry 1 June 1953.

[REDACTED]

The prediction of yield to the limits of 500 KT- 15% stipulated in your memorandum is premature at the present time. It is not early, however, to consider this weapon for test at Eniwetok. The Commission hopes to include it in the next test operation proposed for that area.

The results of the completed feasibility study will be forthcoming in mid 1952.

K.E. Fields  
Colonel, CE  
Director of Military Application

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 9/12/01	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER)
AUTHORITY: EAC/DC/ADG/DAAD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: Betty A. Harris	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
2ND REVIEW DATE: 11/29/01	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFICATION
AUTHORITY: ADD	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: Larry Austin	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): 7.185

THIS PAGE ONLY

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

This document contains Restricted Data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Unauthorized disclosure subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.

~~SECRET~~

Enclosure "B"

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE "C"

MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE  
TO THE  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 1814  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

August 20, 1951

TO : The Director, Division of Military Application,  
Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: YIELD OF GUN-TYPE WEAPONS

1. The Department of the Army has been advised informally by Los Alamos that information is available on the extent of reduction in yield to be expected with gun-type assemblies using smaller amounts of fissionable material.

[REDACTED]

DOE  
6.1(a)

2. Tactical studies have made it apparent that there are situations for which a 5-10 KT yield weapon would be adequate. Accordingly, in the interest of fissionable material economy, it is requested that the Atomic Energy Commission furnish the Military Liaison Committee information on yield versus mass of fissionable material in a gun-type assembly. This information should be based on the assumption that the present gun-type weapon geometry is used and that the variation in yield is accomplished by using various combinations of stockpile elements.

3. In addition, the Military Liaison Committee desires information on the yields that might be obtained with the following:

a. A 240 mm projectile using current weapon technology.

[REDACTED]

DOE  
6.1(a)

5. Concerning the information requested herein, a very early reply to paragraph 3a above is particularly desired. It is understood that Los Alamos has been given advance notice on this item in order to expedite the calculations on the 240 mm projectile.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

/s/WM.B. Kieffer  
Col., USAF  
Act. Exec. Secretary

- 3 -

Enclosure "C"

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

This document contains Restricted Data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Unauthorized disclosure subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.3

NWD 977006  
By DM LSA Date 6/23/05

186

1ST REVIEW DATE: 09/13/01
AUTHORITY: OASD/CDD/CDDO
NAME: [Signature]
2ND REVIEW DATE: 11/27/01
AUTHORITY: ADO
NAME: [Signature]
DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
4. COORDINATE WITH:
5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
OTHER (SPECIFY):

THIS PAGE ONLY