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REF ID: A70.5
SUBJECT: Atomic Weapons Effects Program, Operation QASIX.

Headquarters, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, P. O. Box 2610,
Washington, D. C. 9 FEB 1953

TO: Chairman, Research and Development Board, Washington 25, D. C.

1. The Committee on Atomic Energy of the Research and Development Board at its meeting on 17 December 1952 considered an Armed Forces Special Weapons Project program for weapons effects measurements at Operation QASIX. At this meeting AFSTP requested specific guidance with respect to the inclusion in the program of a project proposed by the Department of the Navy for proof testing of AF ship countermeasures using two radio-controlled liberty ships. After discussion, OAE action on this item was deferred pending further analysis and the preparation of more detailed plans by the Department of the Navy. An alternative plan using manned vessels was also considered.

2. As a result of the recommendations of this meeting, the Department of the Navy has conducted further studies relating to this proposed project and prepared more detailed plans for its conduct. These plans are forwarded as Inclosure 1.

3. The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project has studied these plans and reached the following conclusions:

- a. The proposed project should be considered primarily as a test of defensive measures against atomic weapons rather than an attempt to obtain data on the effects of atomic weapons.
- b. The problems listed in paragraph 1 to Inclosure 1 should be answered in order to determine the operational requirement for various proposed Naval atomic defense systems, which might ultimately involve the expenditure of more than one hundred million dollars for operational installation.
- c. The proposed test program is a reasonable approach to obtaining operationally useful solutions to most of these problems although it is recognized that difficulty may be encountered in extrapolating the results of these tests to a variety of operational conditions and Naval vessels.
- d. The use of radio-controlled vessels offers a greater probability of obtaining operationally useful data than would manned vessels.

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ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1946

1st Indorsement only
11/2/54
HRSchmidt

AFTAC memo 10/3/94

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEWER-DATE 6/16/94	DETERMINATION [CIRCLE NUMBER]
AUTHORITY: EAC EACD EADD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: M. K. KELLY	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
2ND REVIEWER-DATE	3. UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
AUTHORITY: ADD	4. COORDINATING WITH: AETAC
NAME: DP Cannon	5. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
	6. CLASSIFIED WHEN UNPACKETED

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3. The estimated funds to undertake this project appear reasonable for the measurements which are proposed.

4. Accordingly, it is recommended that the subject project be approved for inclusion in the scientific program for Operation CASTLE and that an overall expenditure of \$661,750 R and D funds be approved for this project. Since \$150,000 was already planned for similar projects within the program approved by the OAE on 17 December and since these can be essentially absorbed in this project, the overall increase in the CASTLE fund requirements will be limited to \$511,750.

1 Incl:

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A. R. LUEDECKE
Brigadier General, USAF
Acting Chief, AFSWP

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