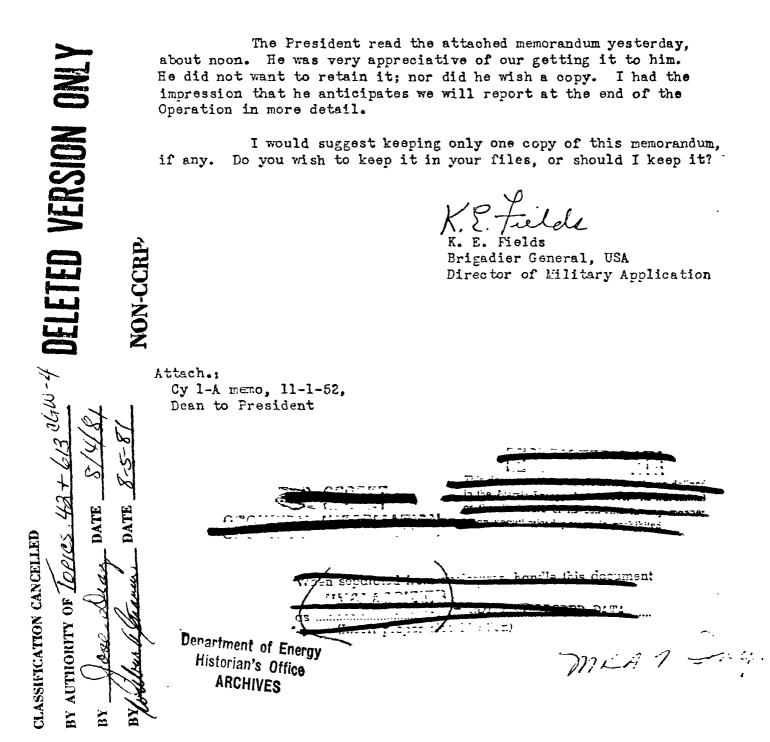
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November 3, 1952

LEMORANDUM for Mr. Dean.



ATOMIC ENERGY COMM SION WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 1, 1952

AUTHER Memorandum for the President^{U.S.} ATOMIC EN NO. 1XI - 207

The Atomic Energy Commission wishes to report that at 0715 November 1 (1415 October 31, Washington time), the first full scale thermonuclear experiment was conducted successfully at Eniwetok. You will recall that we discussed certain aspects of this operation with you on June 30, at which time Dr. Norris E. Bradbury, Director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, described this particular experiment in some detail for you.

From early and incomplete evaluation of results, the yield is estimated roughly to have been more than 6 megatons, possibly as high as 12 megatons; that is, 6 to 12 million tons of TNT equivalent. In comparison with atomic bombs of the Hiroshima type, this is equal to some 50 to 75 in terms of destructive effect.

If the more precise and lengthy methods of measuring yield, which are now in process, confirm the above yield, the detonation exceeds what we had anticipated. We are confident even now, however, that the principles of the recent discoveries that opened the way to accelerated thermonuclear effort, can be applied in full scale devices.

The shot island Eugelab is missing, and where it was there is now an underwater crater of some 1500 yards in diameter.

No significant fall-out of radioactive contamination occurred. As a precaution against fall-out, Joint Task Force 132 had evacuated Enivetok Atoll for the shot. They expect to return to the atoll today.

Unfortunately, during the cloud sampling operation one aircraft, an F-84-G, and pilot, were lost in Eniwetok Lagoon. Otherwise the principal operational missions were conducted without incident and as planned.

- Cur present plan calls for the conduct of the second and final detonation of this operation not earlier than November 11, Eniwetok time. Actual conditions encountered on reentry to Eniwetok may, of course, cause delay beyond this date. This detonation will be a proof-test of a one-half megaton fission bomb dropped from a B-36 aircraft.

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