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Patricia M. Bodin 8/31/97
Date

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400-81

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief of Staff, United States Army

SUBJECT: Full Scale Weapons Test of 1952

1. The Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, has received from the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, the following quoted letter which is self-explanatory. It is recommended that the information contained herein be brought to the attention of the Commander, Joint Task Force 132.

"In the Fall of 1950 the weapons development plans of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory anticipated the need for a full-scale weapons test in the Spring of 1952, probably at the Eniwetok Proving Grounds. In our memorandum of December 20, 1950, we acquainted you with our tentative plans for such a test and requested Department of Defense support for it.

"As you know, the results of RANGER and GREENHOUSE have added materially to our knowledge, both in the field of fission weapons and in the thermonuclear field. We do not now believe that a thermonuclear device will be ready for testing prior to the Winter of 1952-1953. Meanwhile, we believe that our Nevada Test Site will satisfy our requirements for fission weapons tests until that time.

"Informally we understand that JTF-132 has already been activated to assume the residual responsibilities of JTF-3 as well as to furnish the support we requested for the next Eniwetok test. To

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assist in planning, we suggest that this change to a later date be brought to the attention of the Commander, JTF-132."

2. The Committee will maintain constant contact with the Commission with a view to obtaining complete information on future tests at Eniwetok as rapidly as tentative or firm programs can be established and will keep you informed accordingly.

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