

August 4, 1947

MEMORANDUM for the Commissioners.

409303

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From: Director of Military Application

Subject: Final Report of the JCS Evaluation Board for Operation CROSSROADS

The report of the Evaluation Board has been reviewed in the Division of Military Application, and it is recommended that the following deletions be required:

Page 14 - Paragraph 10  
 Page 19 - Paragraph 4  
 Page 23 - Paragraph 12, Lines 4-7 as marked  
 Page 24 - Paragraph 10, Lines 4, 5, 6 as marked  
 Page 31 - Paragraph 16  
 Page 38 - Paragraphs 3 and 4

These deletions are recommended because they refer to long range detection, which it is considered should remain highly classified, or to specific technical information of a highly classified nature.

Previous JCS Evaluation Board reports do not contain damage data in a manner revealing distance versus specific damage. Instead, the extent of the damage is given in general terms such as "heavy", "moderate", and "negligible". Throughout this final Board report, however, distances and extent of damage are related precisely. In addition, paragraph 13, page 30, gives data on the area of the lethal mist to be expected in an underwater explosion.

It is considered that this type of information--the effects of the atomic bomb--pertains to the "utilization of atomic weapons" Section 10(b)(1). If this data is of a classified nature and cannot be published, then according

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to the terms of the Act it is "restricted data". The nature of the data is such that insofar as the design of the bomb itself or the secret of its functioning is concerned publication could be permitted. On the other hand, this data may well have military significance which would require retention of a classified status.

It is recommended that the JCS letter on the Evaluation Board report be answered by stipulating the deletions enumerated above, and by requesting the JCS to indicate the military significance of the other factual data in order to determine whether or not the data must be retained in a classified status. In the latter instance, if classification must be maintained, then the information in question would be "restricted data".

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