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May 2, 1958

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO
SHOT PINON OF OPERATION HARDTACK

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Note by the Acting Secretary

The General Manager has requested that the attached report by the Director of Classification be circulated for consideration by the Commission during the week of May 5, 1958.

REPOSITORY NARA-College Park Harold D. Anamosa
RG 326 AEC SECRETARIAT
COLLECTION 1951-58 Acting Secretary
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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATING
TO SHOT PINON OF OPERATION HARDTACK

Report to the General Manager by the
Director of Classification

PROBLEM

1. To consider the declassification of the total yield as measured by fireball photography, the fission yield as determined by the radiochemical analysis, and other information necessary to demonstrate that the device to be tested as shot PINON of Operation HARDTACK is a thermonuclear device producing a relatively small amount of fallout.

SUMMARY

2. At Meeting 1338 on February 28, 1958 the Commission approved conducting a United Nations observer program as part of Operation HARDTACK. This program is to be carried out in connection with shot PINON. UN observers are to be allowed access to information and permitted to make observation and measurements to enable them to determine the degree to which reduced fallout has been achieved. For this purpose the observers will need the following information and the opportunity to make the measurements indicated:

- a. The location and scheduled and actual time of shot
- b. The device to be tested is contained in a cylindrical container about 5 feet in diameter, and 12 feet long which will weigh about 8 tons including the contents.

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c. The bomb fraction tracer will be 20 tons of uranium (isotopic composition will remain classified.)

d. The total yield as measured by fireball photography (Only the predicted range of yield will be announced in advance of the test.)

e. Information derived from analyses of radioactive cloud samples without the use of any classified information.

f. Fission yield as determined by radiochemistry at UCRL, Berkeley. The participants will observe this determination and may actually assist in carrying out the analyses.



DOE
6.1(a)

It is necessary to conceal the isotopic composition of the depleted uranium tracer in order to conceal the type and amounts of special nuclear material in the weapon; hence the isotopic composition is classified Secret Restricted Data.

STAFF JUDGMENTS

4. The Division of Military Application and the Office of General Counsel concur in the recommendation of this paper.

RECOMMENDATION

5. The General Manager recommends that the Atomic Energy Commission:

a. Determine that the declassification of the total yield, the time and location, and the scheduled date of shot PINON of Operation HARDTACK would not result in serious damage to the nation or be prejudicial to the defense interest of the nation;

b. Determine that the total fission yield of that event and any information that may be derived from samples of the radioactive cloud may be published without undue risk to the common defense and security;

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c. Approve the declassification of the information set forth in items a through f of paragraph 2 above;

d. Note that the declassification actions recommended will not be effective until the comments and concurrence of the DOD are received. These will be sought by letter such as that attached as Appendix "A";

e. Note that JCAE and GAC will be notified of this action by letter such as Appendix "B".

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

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APPENDIX "A"

DRAFT LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN, MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

1. Reference is made to my letter of April 4, 1958. The Commission has approved the declassification of the information about shot PINON of Operation HARDTACK that must be revealed to demonstrate that the device being tested is a thermonuclear device producing a reduced amount of fallout.

2. Specifically the Commission has determined that the declassification of the total yield, the time and location and the scheduled date of shot PINON of Operation HARDTACK would not result in serious damage to the nation or be prejudicial to the defense interest of the nation. It is requested that the Department of Defense join the Commission in that determination.

3. Further, the Commission has determined that the total fission yield of shot PINON may be published without undue risk to the common defense and security and has approved the declassification of the following information:

a. The location and scheduled and actual time of shot

b. The device to be tested is contained in a cylindrical container about 5 feet in diameter, and 12 feet long which will weigh about 8 tons including the contents.

c. The bomb fraction tracer will be 20 tons of uranium (isotopic composition will remain classified).

d. The total yield as measured by fireball photography (Only the predicted range of yield will be announced in advance of the test.)

e. Information derived from analyses of radioactive cloud samples without the use of any classified information.

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f. Fission yield as determined by radiochemistry at UCRL, Berkeley. The participants will observe this determination and may actually assist in carrying out the analyses.

4. The comments of the Department of Defense with respect to these declassification actions are requested.

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APPENDIX "B"

DRAFT LETTER TO THE JCAE AND GAC

1. So that it may effectively fulfill its purpose as a demonstration to UN observers of the U.S. accomplishment of a thermonuclear device producing reducing amounts of fallout, the following information with respect to shot PINON of Operation HARDTACK has been declassified:

a. The location and scheduled and actual time of the shot.

b. The device to be tested is contained in a cylindrical container about 5 feet in diameter, and 12 feet long which will weigh about 8 tons including the contents.

c. The bomb fraction tracer will be 20 tons of depleted uranium.

d. The actual total yield as measured by fireball photography. (Only the predicted range of the yield will be announced in advance of the test.)

e. Any information that may be derived from samples of the radioactive cloud.

f. Fission yield as determined by radiochemistry at UCRL, Berkeley. The participants will observe this determination and may actually assist in carrying out the analyses.

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.3

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Appendix "B"

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