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6 of 14 Series a

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Dear Mr. LeBaron:

Reference is made to our letter of August 15, 1951 concerning the next overseas atomic weapon test operation (IVY). In that letter we stated our belief that no thermonuclear device would be ready for testing before the winter of 1952-53. Since then, however, progress in our research and development activities has been such that a more realistic date for planning purposes now appears to be the Fall of 1952, possibly October 1.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of AEC Information Paper 488/1 which summarizes the current plans for IVY.

Pursuant to your suggestion of September 11, 1951, our Santa Fe Operations Office and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory will initiate direct liaison with JTF-132 for planning and obtaining required military support. Direct liaison between the Manager, Santa Fe Operations and the Commanding General, Special Weapons Command, will continue in planning for the next continental test (SKAPPER).

Since certain elements of support for SKAPPER and IVY may either overlap or be common to both, we will keep JTF-132 and the Special Weapons Command informed of pertinent plans for both operations. It is suggested that they coordinate support planning for their respective missions directly with each other as well as with Los Alamos where necessary. An example of a need common to IVY and SKAPPER is the requirement for six to eight C-47 or equivalent aircraft for advanced cloud sampling.

Test planning and coordination between the Division of Military Applications and the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project will continue in accordance with our previous understanding. We will keep you informed of major plans and developments as they are perfected.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Dean
Chairman

Honorable Robert LeBaron
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee
to the Atomic Energy Commission

Enclosure
cc: JTF-132 Man., SFC COPY FOR SECRETARIAT
APS WP J-Div., LASL



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W. Schubert
Special
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* See AEC 483/13
** Memo on file in Div. of M.A.