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UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM for the Commissioners

April 21, 1947

Classification Cancelled or Changed

TO SECRET By Authority of

gen'l McCormack 8/6/2

Subject:

From:

LETTER TO THE MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

REGARDING A BOMB TEST PROGRAM

Mr. Carroll L. Wilson

Both the Military Liaison Committee and the General Advisory Committee are looking to the Commission to initiate the action necessary to commence serious work on a bomb test program. No dissent has reached to the necessity for such a program; on the contrary, it is the consensus that such tests are vital.

2. Los Alamos wishes to prepare for three explosions:

Any tests in the near future should be as simple as possible. Crossroads was, from the scientific point of view, a test of an atomic explosion on naval and military materiel. Also, Crossroads was far more expensive than we can probably again afford. In any event, the urgent requirement now is to determine the characteristics of some new bomb types, not the material damage caused by atomic explosions.

A publicity program will be required. Its objective should be minimum fanfare.

The attached draft letter to the Military Liaison Committee is proposed as a first step toward coordination with the Armed Forces, whose collaboration will be necessary and who have a vital interest in the results of these tests.

RESTRICTED DATA

This document contains Restricted Data as defined in the Atamic Energy Act

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