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Department of State

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INDICATE COLLECT

CHARGE TO Atomic Energy Commission

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1956 MAR 30 PM 6 47

SENT TO: Embassy, LONDON 5752

FOR USDEL DISARMAMENT

FOR KIRK FROM FOSTER AEC



III. Our Technical Staff submits the following material to assist you in presenting persuasive case for continuation nuclear weapons tests:
 Careful consideration of the reasons for and the effects of nuclear weapons testing leads to two conclusions: (1) That continuation of such testing by the United States is essential for maintaining our national defense and the security of the free world in the absence of a comprehensive disarmament system; (2) That harmful effects of such testing are insignificant outside the testing areas.

Basic to the philosophy of testing all types of armaments is the conviction that a superior weapons capability in the hands of a nation dedicated to peace provides the maximum assurance that a breach of the peace will not be attempted. Inherent in the concept of a superior weapons capability is the recognition that a family of weapons is necessary to provide the proper versatility and flexibility for a great variety of circumstances: tactical, strategic, and defensive on land, at sea and in the air.

To ascertain the suitability in terms of the specific needs, the weapons must be tested. This, of course, is not unique with nuclear weapons but rather is a well-recognized characteristic of all designed items

contemplated

Prepared by: S/AE:PJFarley;RLF 3/30/56	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: S/AE:PJFarley
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Mr. Spiers, UNP

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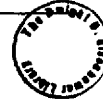
FOLDER *OCB 000.9 (Atomic Energy) (File #4)*
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contemplated for production. New theories and new designs must be tested in the laboratory or in the field to prove their performance before production can be prudently begun. This is obvious in the aeronautical field but it is equally essential in the armaments field. A superior weapons capability is not an objective which can be once gained and thereafter maintained by no further effort. This is apparent if viewed in terms of familiar objects such as radio, television, chemistry and transportation. Likewise, in every phase of weapons capability, constant efforts toward improvement have to be made to produce desired results at less cost in terms of weight, space, money or hazards to operating personnel.

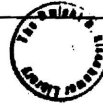
Nuclear weapons are an extremely important component of our total weapons capability which is regarded as the principal deterrent to any aggression against our national security or the security of the free world. Continued testing of nuclear weapons to ensure continued improvement is necessary to maintain the effectiveness of that deterrent.

The effects of blast, heat, and immediate nuclear radiation from a nuclear weapon test are localized within the testing areas. However, some of the radioactive debris produced does get into the atmosphere, is spread by winds, and gradually falls to the surface. The most biologically important substance found in this fallout is radioactive strontium. Since the start of nuclear tests, careful measurements have been made of the distribution of this material over the earth's surface, in all forms in which it might be expected to occur. The results of this study are reassuring. The amount of radioactive strontium now present

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in the soil as a result of all nuclear explosions to date would have to be increased about a thousand times before any effect on humans would be noticeable. Likewise, the amounts of all other radioactive materials that have fallen outside the testing areas as a result of all nuclear weapon tests are insignificant compared to concentrations that would be considered hazardous to health.

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