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February 19, 1957

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Brigadier Ceneral Alfred D. Starbird Director of Military Application U. S. Atmic Energy Commission 1901 Constitution Assemble Machineton 25, B. C.

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THEU: Mr. E. F. Hertford, Hunager Albuquerque Operations Office V. S. Atomic Energy Commission P. O. Box 5400 Albuquerque, New Mexico

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CH-71176

Subject: Proposed Development of Teorgi as a Measons Test Site

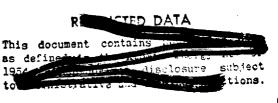
Dear General Starbird:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

For several months UCRL has been studying the possible use of Tacogi as a weapons test site during Operation HARDIACK. In making the evaluation of the advantages as compared with the costs and operational aspects enthusiastic assistance was provided by Commander, JTF-7, the 7.1 Staff, Commander Dan Rex of the JTF-7 Meteorological Center, and the 7.5 Task Group Staff. Reports on the latest considerations were provided by Dr. C. L. Felt on operational matters (meno to A. C. Graves from G. L. Felt, Cite: J-15G-190 dated 4 February 1957); Commander Dan Rex on the expected meteorology (Climatology of Teorgi, JIF, MC, 2 January 1957); and Mr. San Howell of Holmes and Marver on costs of development of the site (letter to Mr. J. Senders, Test Division, AEC, ALOO, dated 30 January 1957). Opinions on fallout were obtained from Dr. Vey Shelton. Using the material provided from these sources and in consideration of the presently proposed shot program for BARDTACK, comprising 25 to 30 events with yields up to 40 MI, a general analysis has been prepared by Mr. W. Gibbins and is included as an attachment.

In Mr. Gibbins' report two schedules are developed based on the assumption, in one case, that only Bikini is available and the bther in which both Bikini and Tacagi are available as shot sites. In preparing the accordings it was assumed that for the operation hs a whole dual capability for megatou shots would exist. It was proposed that the operation would start May 1, 1958, so weather was examined only for the summer period.





DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASS PICALISM REFERVE

1ST REVIEW-DATE 09-10-97

AUTHORITY: DAGC CADC CLADO

NAME: DECLASS CLADO

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The conclusions and special requirements pointed out in the study may be summarized briefly as follows:

- 1. The use of Taongi and Bikini would shorten UCRL operations overseas by about 7 weeks, over that time required if only Bikini were available. The effects on shortening the operation as a whole is not fully known but it would likely amount to three weeks to a month.
- 2. Taongi would be used only as a barge site. All diagnostics and firing would be accomplished from a ship. Use of the ship will permit flexibility in operation and will further reduce the time of stay of technical personnel overseas by about one month, since installation and dry running of equipment can be accomplished while the ship is still at San Francisco. The ship will need to be diverted soon in order to provide adequate time to fit it out. It is estimated that fitting out of the ship will cost about \$1,200,000.
 - 3. The cost of site development on the basis proposed is estimated at \$3,000,000.

In view of all of the stated considerations it is our recommendation that the Taongi site be developed for use during HARDTACK. As a corollary requirement, a weather station should be established at Taongi now, even if ship-borne initially, to collect meteorological data through the present year.

Sincerely yours,

G. W. Johnson Test Division Leader

GWJ/wl

Attachment - COL-57-11

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