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Major General F. W. Clarkson
Commander, Joint Task Force 132
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear General Clarkson:

This letter will confirm the recent telephone call from my staff to Colonel Backen in which we transmitted informally a change in aircraft requirements for CASTLE.

It now appears that a capability for drop-test by manned aircraft may be needed for CASTLE. Based on technical considerations existing before the results of Operation TUBELER-SHAPPER were apparent, we had thought that no air drops would be required at CASTLE. Since the conclusion of TUBELER-SHAPPER, however, it has become apparent that plans for CASTLE may well be expanded from about two shots to three plus or minus one shot, of which possibly one or two may be air drops.

With reference to CASTLE site planning, the results of a Bikini survey should be available soon. In this connection, the Departments of Interior and State have informed us of an interest. The Interior Department is desirous of our selecting one of these uninhabited islands instead of Bikini or Ujae, if an alternate site is required for CASTLE, to permit the Bikini people who are now living at Kili to return home and to prevent further displacement of others. We have forwarded Santa Fe Operations a list compiled by the Department of Interior of uninhabited islands in the Pacific for consideration with the Bikini survey.

We know that you are working closely with Santa Fe Operations and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory to evaluate all factors bearing on the problem. When a conclusion is reached we will consult with you, and the Departments of Interior and State, so that a final decision may be made.

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, and the transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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E. L. Fields
Brigadier General, USA
Director of Military Application

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