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Dear Mr. Bean:

Reference is made to your letter of 18 October 1951 on the utilization of the Department of Defense facilities to assist the Atomic Energy Commission in the conducting of its weapons program. In amplification of my reply dated 31 October 1951, I wish to report that the Department of Defense is in accord with your proposal for the initial phase and has nominated as its representatives to initiate discussion and conduct a joint study the following officers:

- Colonel A. W. Betts, USA
- Captain T. A. Ahroon, USN
- Colonel C. F. Damberg, USAF
- Colonel C. F. Ball, USAF (MIC)

The officers that I nominate above were carefully selected on the basis of their general, technical and atomic energy experience. They will not be the specific representatives of their respective services, but are considered the best qualified and available officers to compile the listings we both desire. In this connection, it is stressed that the members of this group are to compile information for further action and are not in a position or authorized to make commitments. While essentially a fact finding board, I visualize that their report should contain appropriate comments and recommendations and attention should be made of associated problems such as natural cleavage points in weapon design.

At a joint meeting on 7 November of the Commission, the Under Secretary of the USAF, and the Assistant Secretaries of the Army and Navy, an area of agreement was reached as to the status and operations of this group. As I understand it, the joint group is to ascertain and record insofar as practicable for our mutual benefit:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEW DATE: 04/14/95	CLASSIFICATION NUMBER(S)
AUTHORITY: NAD 128X 128X	CLASSIFICATION
NAME: W. C. ...	CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE: 4-22-95	CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]
AUTHORITY: ADD	DECLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED]
NAME: [REDACTED]	DECLASSIFIED AND BRACKETED
	DATE: [REDACTED]

Ref: [REDACTED] P.C. 465/2



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a. The nature and scope of programs and specific tasks on which military assistance is contemplated by the Atomic Energy Commission.

b. The many facilities and talents within the three military Departments which are technically suitable and which might be made available to render assistance desired by the Commission.

In addition to the information or data desired above, I believe it would be helpful for the group to develop the facts concerning the tasks currently being undertaken by the Military for the Atomic Energy Commission and the procedures which are used in accomplishing them.

I suggest that the joint group submit an interim report to our respective organizations as soon as practicable which would outline their findings, comments and recommendations to date as well as their projected course for future action. I suggest that Colonel Ball, Weapons Division, Military Liaison Committee, act as coordinator and secretary for the meetings and the compilation of the joint report. The group has already met informally and plans to set an interim report out by 21 November.

Sincerely yours,

Robert LoBaron  
Chairman

Honorable Gordon Dean  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
1901 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
NOVEMBER 1950

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