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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING 1346 This document consists of 3 pages
Copy No. 1 of 1 Series 21

Saturday, March 22, 1958, 2:30 p.m.

Chairman's Office - D. C. Office (u)

Present

Lewis L. Strauss
Harold S. Vance
John S. Graham
John F. Floberg

W. D. McCool
Brig. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird

High Altitude Shot - HARDTACK (u)

The Commission resumed its discussion with Mr. Graham's query as to how small a shot could be fired for the TEAK test.

Mr. Vance said he thought that the Commission was responsible for complete protection of the inhabitants of the territory and that all normal and possible precautions should be taken insofar as fishing vessels are concerned.

Our protection of these people should be not less than that of U.S. citizens, commented Mr. Graham, and, for that reason, the protective measures should be as complete as if the shot were fired in Nevada. He said he thought the smallest possible shot should be fired in order to minimize the extent of exposure and asked if a small shot could be fired which would not result in exposure danger but which would provide data for extrapolation of the required information.

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FOLDER # 5 MRA HARDTACK

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>08/27/01</u>	① DETERMINATION (CIRC)
AUTHORITY: <u>DAOC/ADDC/ADD</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION (C)
NAME: <u>Betty S. Harris</u>	3. CONTAINS (C)
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>11/8/01</u>	4. COORDINATE (C)
AUTHORITY: <u>ADD</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION (C)
NAME: <u>Corey Carter</u>	② CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	③ OTHER (SPECIFY)

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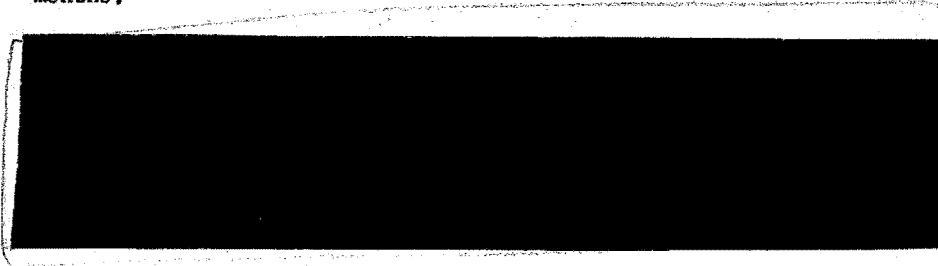
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Mr. Floberg inquired whether it was possible that this shot would make outer space uninhabitable for years. General Starbird responded that it would not, but that it would interfere with the counting rate of satellites for an indefinite time, perhaps weeks or months.



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General Starbird pointed out that the rocket equipment is at the Test Site and the warheads are in transit. The Redstone Team has been assigned to this test and any changes now would affect already tight schedules of the satellite program. These considerations must be weighed against the desirability of using a low yield shot which would pull in the flash range by only 25 percent.

Even though he thought the HARDTACK test series would be the last in the Pacific and he could appreciate the need for this vital defense information, the Chairman questioned the element of urgency, inasmuch as the Commission had known nothing of this development six months ago.

After further discussion of possible protective measures which might be established, the Commission requested General Starbird to provide further information on the requirements for shot yield and on protective procedures for test area personnel. General Starbird said he would obtain from the Commander, Joint Task Force-7, a detailed plan on the shot procedures and that he would also inform the DOD that the firing of this shot was under consideration by the Commission, since this might affect the firing of the satellite.

Mr. Graham asked that the record show that he was disturbed that the required information must be obtained from a shot of the proposed yield, with these dangers to personnel, and Mr. Strauss added that while it is clear that the Commission is sympathetic

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to the purpose of the test, it does not have sufficient information to make a responsible decision concerning it.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: Meeting 1385, June 25, 1958

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