

NW:972006A
By DM LJA Date 7/2/05

~~SECRET~~

411994

4

REPOSITORY NARA - College Park
COLLECTION RG 326 51-58 Secretary
BOX No. 185 (NN3-326-93-010)
FOLDER MRA 7 Under-ground Testing
Vol. 1

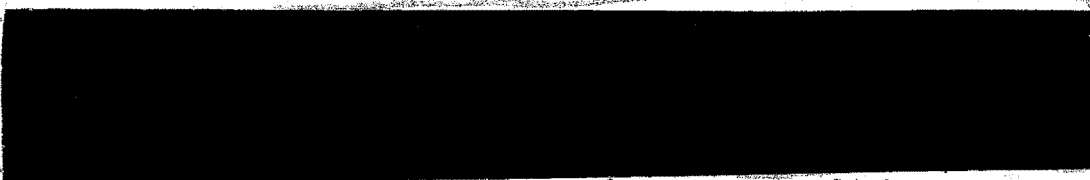
7 X 9
r.g.

JUN 12 1950

R

Dear Mr. President:

On January 29, 1950, I wrote informing you of our plans for nuclear testing in calendar year 1950 and requested authority to expend the nuclear materials involved. The major series contemplated at that time, and at present, was Operation HAWTHORNE to be conducted in the Pacific beginning in April. A secondary small series of relatively low yield underground shots called Operation HILLBACE was planned for conduct in the Nevada Test Site during the fall of 1950. Certain safety firings, from which no significant nuclear yield is expected, were to be fired at the Nevada Test Site as needed during the year. By instrument dated January 31, 1950, you approved conduct of the HAWTHORNE program and the spring safety firings and the expenditure of nuclear materials required, but withheld approval of the HILLBACE operation pending further consideration. Also, on May 1, 1950, you approved HAWTHORNE-AMERICA, a project to be conducted by the Department of Defense as an adjunct to Operation HAWTHORNE.



Doc
6/10/50

Firing of these latter two would depend on the outcome of certain other shots in the series.

Since January 31, two safety shots have been conducted successfully in Nevada. Also, and as already reported orally to you, the Pacific series was initiated with a first nuclear firing on April 25. A total of 13 nuclear shots had been fired as of June 10th. Several of the new devices have produced very disappointing results and, because of the importance of the weapon programs involved, it is highly desirable that follow-up tests be included in HAWTHORNE. Also, as a result of recent weapon research activity within the laboratories and in response to a special request from the Department of Defense as to the need for early development of specified systems, other selected shots should be added to the Pacific program. Therefore, we propose to:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>02/20/02</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: <u>EAFC EAFDC CIADD</u>	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>Arthur H. ...</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>10/27/02</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: <u>ADD</u>	4. COORDINATE WITH
NAME: <u>W...</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO UNAGREED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY) <u>AA 119-122</u>

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

This document contains restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Its transmittal or the disclosure of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited.

4327-1263-9-2
NWDD 972006A-119

NW:972006A
By DM LJA Date 7/2/05

DISPATCHED BY TELETYPE UNIT
DATE ORDER 5650-20
4/10/50

6-12-54

The President

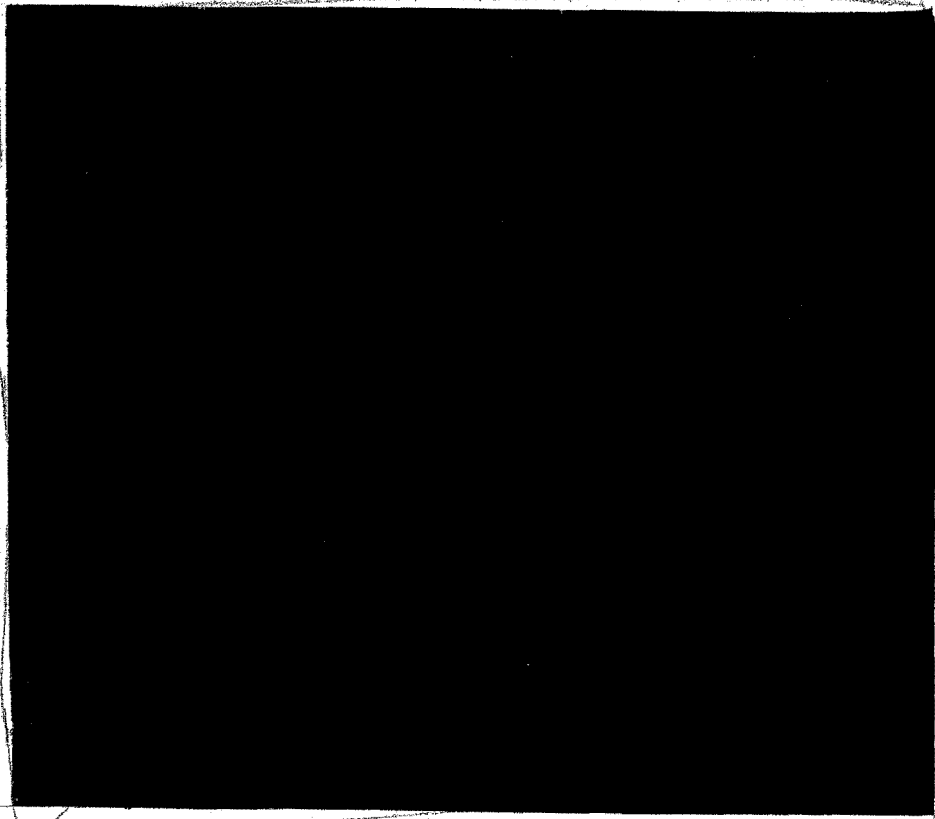
- a. Fire the two shots which were classified as "contingent" in our previous schedule.



DOE
6.1(a)

The second contingent shot must be fired to assure development at an early date of the most effective warhead for the POLARIS missile.

- b. Add to the HARDTACK series, subject to your approval:



DOE
6.1 a

We request that you approve the addition to the series of the firings listed in b. above.

Considering the weather delays to date, the total program (exclusive of the UN demonstration shot) should be completed by late August. The UN demonstration shot would be fired at Eniwetok Atoll as soon as possible after the high altitude Johnston Island shots, - estimated as ready in very late August and to be fired as soon thereafter as weather permits.

~~SECRET~~

The President

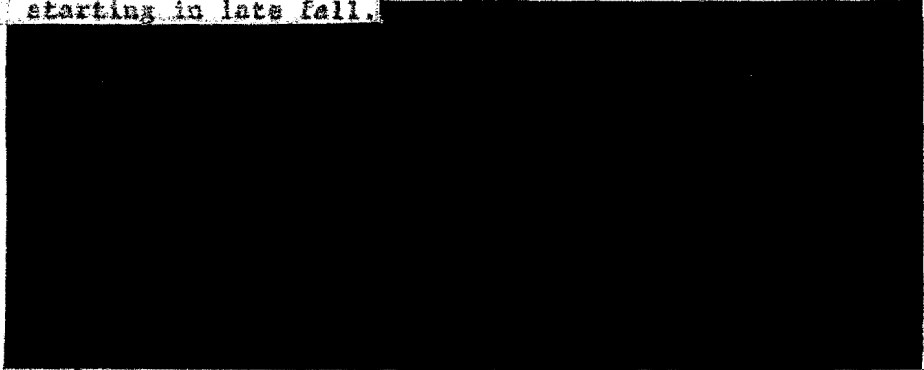
- 3 -

Danger areas will be in existence concurrently at the Eniwetok Proving Ground and Johnston Island for a period of approximately four weeks during the time Johnston Island will be operational.

In deciding which shots we would recommend for addition to Operation HARDTACK, we considered advancing certain shots now planned for Operation MILLRACE in the fall of 1958 at the Nevada Test Site. In the interest of avoiding further lengthening of HARDTACK, we are not recommending that they be advanced. However, we do feel that certain shots in MILLRACE are extremely important and if for any reason Operation MILLRACE is to be cancelled or postponed, the addition of the MILLRACE shots to Operation HARDTACK should be considered further, and fabrication of the devices should start immediately.

In preparation for Operation MILLRACE and the safety tests at the Nevada Test Site, it has been necessary to initiate construction of tunnels and to proceed with associated on-site construction as well as laboratory planning. The scale of preparation is, of course, increasing with each passing week. We request, therefore, your approval for the conduct of Operation MILLRACE at the Nevada Test Site as follows:

- a. A series of five small diagnostic shots all underground starting in late fall.



DOE
6/1/58

- b. One relatively deep (approximately 2,000 feet) underground shot of 20 to 40 KT in November or December to explore further the field of underground testing.



DOE
6.1 (a)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

The President

-4-

DOE/6.1(a)

[REDACTED] In view of the importance that underground testing may ultimately have to our national defense, it is necessary that we progressively fire larger shots at greater depths to establish the practical limitations on such firings. In addition, of course, this firing will provide beneficial information relative to the practical use of atomic explosions, and it should improve our knowledge of the detectability of underground shots. It should be noted that all of the Operation MILLBANK shots are to be fired underground in such a manner as to contain the radioactive debris.

- 1. The firing underground is ready and needed of some eight safety tests from which no significant nuclear reaction is expected.

[REDACTED]

DOE
6.1(a)

DOE
6.1(a)

Respectfully yours,

John F. Kennedy
The President
The White House

Chairman

CC: BK Loper/DOE
Chairman
General Manager
Secretariat

Intermittent

I hereby approve the above recommendations of the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission concerning certain additions to the Operation HARBLOCK program and the conduct of Operation MILLBANK.

DOE
6.1(a)

[REDACTED]

DMA GEN. MGR. CHAIRMAN

Starbird:am

UNCLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 2.2

~~SECRET~~

Dwight D. Eisenhower

6/11/58

NW: 972006A

ED: DM HCC Date 7/14/58

122