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REPOSITORY: NARA College Park  
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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

This document is a part of 2 page  
No. 1 of 9 copies Series A

March 5, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

The purpose of this letter is to obtain authority to expend the nuclear materials required for execution of the atomic test program planned for the late Spring of 1956 at the Pacific Proving Ground. The operation, which has been assigned the code name REDWING, is presently scheduled to begin May 1, 1956. Current plans show a need for 17 shots, and there is a possibility that one or two additional shots will be required to carry out the objectives of the program.

The test series is designed to achieve four objectives vital to our continued progress in the research and development of atomic weapons and in the improvement of atomic defense. These are: first, to proof test certain weapons in stockpile or to be stockpiled in the near future; second, to continue developmental research on promising weapons; third, to continue long range weapons research of new techniques, ideas and designs; and fourth, to conduct a weapons effects program required by the Department of Defense.

Certain aspects of this test series, we believe, will be of particular interest to you.

[REDACTED] In addition, Operation REDWING incorporates development tests of devices to be adapted as strategic and tactical weapons, and includes tests designed to continue the research and development of small designs suitable for use in air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles. These latter, of course, have application to the air defense problem.

[REDACTED]

DOE  
6.1(a)

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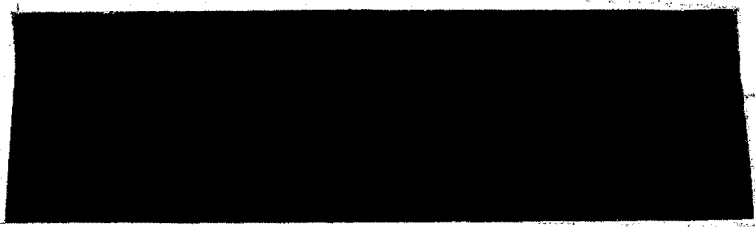
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The President

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With reference to the problems of radioactive contamination and fallout, several points are worth noting. The danger area about the Pacific Proving Ground was temporarily enlarged during Operation CASTLE; it is intended that this larger area or a similar one will be used on Operation REDWING from the outset. Even though the number of shots for REDWING is greater than that for CASTLE (approximately seventeen as against six), the total cumulative yield expected on REDWING from all shots is only slightly more than half the cumulative yield obtained at CASTLE.

It will be necessary to expend up to the following amounts of nuclear materials in conducting this program:



DOE  
6.1(a)

Authority is requested to expend the above materials in the conduct of Operation REDWING.

Respectfully yours,

*Robert Strauss*

Chairman

The President  
The White House

APPROVED 5 March 1956

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
Dwight D. Eisenhower

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E.O. 12889, Sec. 3.3

NW: 9720066  
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