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April 25, 1952

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Dear Mr. LeBaron:

To facilitate planning for military participation and support of atomic tests, the Commission wishes to inform the Committee of its current plans for future full-scale weapons test operations. Three separate and distinct series will be discussed in this letter.

IVY

A summary of plans for IVY was forwarded to you by our letter of October 29, 1951, together with a copy of AEC 483/1. Since that time the Commission staff and AEC contractor personnel have continued to work with Joint Task Force 132 and Armed Forces Special Weapons Project toward IVY and have participated in drawing up a mutually acceptable technical program. Three changes in the original concept have developed. First, we now plan to evacuate all personnel from the Atoll prior to the thermonuclear (MIRV) shot, since the safety of the firing party if left ashore is doubtful. Second, the high-efficiency, high yield (400-600 KT) fission device (RING shot) is scheduled to follow the MIRV shot, conditions following MIRV permitting. Third, unavoidable delays to date in engineering, fabricating, and procuring materials for the cryogenic and other technical apparatus have forced a change in scheduled shot date for MIRV from October 1 to November 1, 1952.

USSHCT

Consideration has been given to conducting another full-scale test operation (USSHCT) at the Nevada Proving Ground following USSHCT-3. We had tentatively planned to conduct USSHCT in the Fall of 1952. It has recently been determined that USSHCT cannot be conducted prior to the early Spring of 1953. A target date for the beginning of the operation is February 1, 1953. These plans, however, must remain subject to change in the event of unexpected developments. Devices for testing during USSHCT have not been completely determined at this time.

*circulated in AEC 483/7*

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CASTLE

From time to time various Department of Defense agencies concerned with operational problems connected with Pacific Proving Grounds tests have raised informally the question of the approximate date of whatever operation is planned for that area following IVY. Inasmuch as you may wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for necessary support planning purposes, it is our opinion that a date of approximately September-October 1953 represents the best guess that can be made at this time for occupancy of Eniwetok Atoll following IVY. CASTLE is the code name assigned to the series of atomic tests at the Pacific Proving Grounds in the Fall of 1953.

We will keep the Committee informed in any changes in the above plans.

DOE ARCHIVES

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

*H. D. Smyth*

H.D. Smyth  
Acting Chairman

Honorable Robert LeBaron  
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee  
to the Atomic Energy Commission

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15A: DMA Reader  
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