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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 April 1953

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Dear Mr. Dean:

As you know, at the meeting of the National Security Council on 31 March 1953, Mr. Lewis Strauss, Special Assistant to the President on Atomic Energy Matters, made a presentation relative to possible reductions in the Fiscal Year 1954 budget as applied to activities in the field of atomic energy. One of the activities considered was that of tests involving nuclear detonations.

It seems appropriate that review of this activity be conducted jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense. It is proposed, therefore, that designated representatives of the AEC and of the DOD prepare for our consideration a review of the prospective test requirements with particular attention to:

a. Whether the presently contemplated scale of tests is essential to the development of weapons in accordance with DOD needs.

b. Whether the scale of military support planned or contemplated for such tests is the minimum required.

c. Extent of tests after CASTLE which is essential to the knowledge of the military effects of atomic weapons required for the proper employment of and defense against atomic weapons.

d. Any methods or measures which can be taken to reduce the costs of such tests without serious loss of such information.

The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project is the cognizant agency of the DOD in weapons testing activities and will provide proper Defense representation for preparation of this review.

/s/

Robert LeBaron
Chairman
Military Liaison Committee

COPY FOR MR. TYLER

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2

RG 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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John D. Dean 5/2/90

DR DNA Switcher

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Honorable Gordon Dean
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission

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