

7 October 1952

101441

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Conference on CASTLE Planning at 1030 hours, 7 October 1952, War Room, STW 132, Farry Island

US DOE ARCHIVES	
RG	326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIVISION OF MILITARY APPLICATION	
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1. Personnel present:

- Gen Clarkson
- Dr. Graves
- Gen Walk
- Gen Vice
- Mr. Boyer
- Mr. Tyler
- Gen Fields
- Mr. Burriss
- Mr. Cole
- Capt Pahl
- Col Backton
- Col Bywater
- Capt Knickerbocker
- Col Cowart
- Mr. Spain
- Capt Hayward
- Lt Col Campbell
- Cdr Hall
- Major Moore
- Capt Bronst

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2. General Fields began a discussion of the basic requirements for Operation CASTLE. He stated that planning should envisage two (2) shots of the MIKE variety and two (2) smaller shots approximately GEOPHE size would be fired. All things considered it seems that one MIKE type shot would have to be fired at Bikini and the other MIKE type plus the two GEOPHE type shots would have to be fired at Eniwetok if reasonable time schedules are to be met. He stated that it was important that a second proving ground not be established at Bikini. If a base camp and one or more site camps were established at Bikini with two systems of communication, water distillation, power plants, recreation facilities, network of air and water transportation, etc., the cost and effort would be beyond present capabilities. The only way two (2) thermonuclear devices could be fired at Bikini would be by allowing a time gap of approximately 90 days between shots which would be extremely costly. The alternative is one thermonuclear shot to be fired at Bikini and one at Eniwetok.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

*Jedlin* 10/29/84  
*Boyer* 12/8/86

R1959 F of 2A

Amend "A" 106

3. General Clarkson stated that this was a new concept to him. Until this meeting he had been under the impression that all shots of MIKE size would be fired at Bikini. Furthermore, if a requirement exists for a shot of MIKE size at Eniwetok it will require evacuation of the atoll and will preclude the basing of the Air Task Group on Eniwetok. If this is true, we must again use Kwajalein for the Air Task Group and steps must be taken immediately to insure availability of facilities for this organization at Kwajalein.

4. General Fields was asked if one shot only of MIKE size were fired during CASTLE, would Eniwetok or Bikini be used. He stated that were only one shot of MIKE size to be fired, he would have expected it to be fired at Eniwetok. General Clarkson stated that this also was a new concept to him, and that if this is necessary he will be required to modify the CASTLE report to JCS.

5. Mr. Graves stated that in any event it would be necessary to have evacuation capabilities at Eniwetok due to radiological hazard possibilities with devices of GEORGE size. Following IVY a great deal more will be known about the effects on Eniwetok Atoll and it may be determined that the Air Task Group can operate from Eniwetok with a high yield nuclear device being fired on the upper islands.

6. General Clarkson stated that so far as he knows no provisions have ever been made for continuing support of JTF activities at Kwajalein. If a need exists for such support from Kwajalein it should be included in the permanent plans for that island. Mr. Tyler stated that AEC had always expected to receive continued support from the military in the Pacific, and had expressed such opinions during earlier discussions on the use of Kwajalein as a permanent installation. BEST COPY AVAILABLE

7. General Clarkson stated that in view of the requirements for Operation CASTLE as stated by General Fields in paragraph 2 of this paper, concurrent planning should go forward within the Task Force, thereby eliminating any delay. If planning is delayed to await action from the AEC to the DGD to clarify the requirements for Operation CASTLE, it may become impossible to meet the present schedule regardless of whether one or two thermonuclear devices are to be fired. General Fields agreed with General Clarkson and stated that he would undertake to clarify the requirements for CASTLE by submitting a paper from the AEC to the DGD.

8. It was agreed that since it appears that there will be an AEC requirement to test two thermonuclear very high yield devices during CASTLE, the Joint Task Force should at once initiate action and plans to do so regardless of whether one is fired on Eniwetok and one on Bikini or both on Bikini.

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Historian's Office  
ARCHIVES

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