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~~THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C. SECS. 793 AND 794, THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.~~

Dr. Norris E. Bradbury, Director
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Subject: PLANNING FOR FALL 1953 TESTS AT PACIFIC PROVING GROUNDS

Dear Dr. Bradbury:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 8, 1952, DIR-710, in which you provide your present thinking as to the scope of the fall 1953 test series at the Pacific Proving Grounds. The information has been transmitted to the Division of Military Application for their use in discussions with the Department of Defense regarding future overseas tests.

It is noted that you are thinking of a possible third or fourth shot in the series. I would like to call your attention to the fact that the estimates of cost as contained in the FY 1953 Budget are based on an operation comparable to Ivy. It would appear that an operation such as you outlined in your letter of May 8 will be of considerably greater magnitude than Ivy, both in structural and operational requirements. If this is true, we should begin developing criteria and looking at our fund requirements immediately.

In spite of an appeal by the Commission, the funds for full-scale tests, as contained in the first supplement to the FY 1953 budget, have been reduced below what was requested for both overseas and continental tests. It is hoped that this supplement will be acted upon by Congress shortly and that we will at least get the amount recommended by the Bureau of the Budget. Since Congress plans to adjourn in June and not to reconvene until January 1953, we cannot expect any action on another supplement during that period, and action after reconvening would require some time. We will not be in a position where we can proceed with program preparations on anticipation of any further budgetary relief.

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Dr. Norris E. Bradbury

-2-

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Accordingly, we must accept the current estimates for FY 1953 as quite realistic ceilings within which we must operate. It is not our intent to stifle the test programs, and we will do everything possible to provide funds and facilities for performance of the experiments you consider essential. It will, however, be necessary that you supply us with very substantial justification for the programs you plan, to support requests for additional funds. Initiation of this action should not be delayed if a program larger than assumed for budget purposes is to be developed.

I will appreciate your reviewing your proposed test operations with reference to the FY 1953 budget. Will you please advise me as soon as possible of your ability to perform the tests you have in mind within the limits of funds which we hope will be available from the FY 1953 first supplemental budget?

Very truly yours,

George P. Kraker

George P. Kraker
Deputy Manager

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