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SECURITY INFORMATION

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

400957

JUN 12 1953

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C. J. [unclear]

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Honorable Robert K. Larson
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee
to the Atomic Energy Comandatory Operation

Dear Mr. Larson:

Reference is made to our letter of January 2, 1953 which outlined the CASTLE operation as we contemplated it at that preliminary stage. Also that time in the program of further development and work, it has become apparent that the development of the program of CASTLE should be increased in the amount of working the production of factors bearing on emergency capability weapons and special material requirements. At this stage, we believe a program of six shots would meet materially in the above, and accordingly, we have been working with Joint Task Force Seven on questions of the feasibility of such a program. From their standpoint and ours, it appears practicable to execute a six shot program and to maintain the proposed timing of CASTLE, provided the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense accept such a program and provided the various contributing phases such as special materials production at Oak Ridge remain on schedule.

Briefly stated, the program now being developed encompasses six shots: four shots [redacted] and two shots [redacted] at Los Alamos Solenoid Laboratory and two shots [redacted] at the University of California, Berkeley Laboratory. It is presently planned to determine the dates of production and four at Midland. The first production is scheduled for February 15, 1954, with seven to ten days intervals between shots.

It should be emphasized, however, that the actual scope and plan for execution of CASTLE cannot be determined until the program is approved. At that time the relevant factors bearing on the nature of the various proposals and on the operational capabilities and limitations both of material production and of a Task Force nature will be more complete. We hope crystallization of these factors will be sufficient at that time to enable us to reach agreement on the specific scope for CASTLE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
1ST REVIEW DATE: [redacted]
AUTHORITY: [redacted]
NAME: [redacted]
2ND REVIEW DATE: [redacted]
AUTHORITY: [redacted]
NAME: [redacted]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SUBJECT: [redacted]
DATE: [redacted]
BY: [redacted]
CLASSIFICATION: [redacted]
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- 2 -

In the meantime, we would appreciate assurance that the Department of Defense concurs that planning should proceed on the basis of an augmented CASTLE as described above, subject to final resolution of specific plans this Fall, and that all concerned can proceed into the operational phase of CASTLE on the same basis as we did in the IVY Operation, which proved so successful.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Dean
Chairman

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354