

COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

404837

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22 April 1953

AE 228/1

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MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS, COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

SUBJECT: Project Gabriel.

1. Project Gabriel was the code name given to a study accomplished for the AEC to determine the danger of poisoning the atmosphere of the world by firing nuclear weapons. Only the very long range hazard resulting from such long-lived fission products as carbon-14 was considered. The report concluded that the atmosphere would become dangerous when 10<sup>5</sup> 20 Kt weapons had been fired. This estimate was assumed to be accurate to an order of magnitude.

2. As a result of this study the General Advisory Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission recommended that work be undertaken to refine this figure. It was further urged that two agencies study the problem independently. The AEC as a result of this recommendation established a contract with the Rand Corporation to undertake this study. A second suitable contractor could not be found who was willing to attack the problem, so the AEC is planning to undertake a study internally.

3. The Rand Corporation is beginning its study with an examination of possible localized contamination which might result from firing some ten or twenty weapons in a relatively small area within a few days time, as might be expected to happen if hostilities erupted in Europe. This study will be extended to the more general situation of overall contamination.

4. Dr. Walter D. Claus of the AEC will be present at the meeting, and will elaborate on the current program and plans of this study.

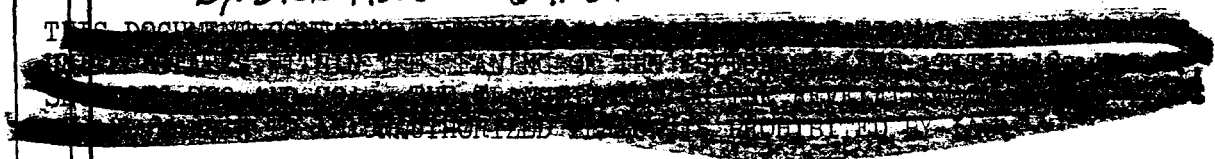
DOE 5650.2, III-12

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC  
JOSE DIAZ 4-16-81  
REVIEWED BY DATE  
Wilbur A. STRAUER 4-17-81  
REVIEWED BY DATE  
By: DICK KOOGLE 6-11-87

ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT 11

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Reference, Item 2,  
2nd C/AE meeting.

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