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COLLECTION RG 326, 46-51 Security

BOX No. 102 (NN3-326-93-007)

FOLDER 471.6 (10-20-48)
Greenhouse, V. 1

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

409180
1950

MEMORANDUM For the JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Through: THE MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Subject: PLAN FOR ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATION IN 1951 ATOMIC WEAPONS PROOF-TESTING

1. The AEC has reviewed the plan (JCS 1998/13) for the participation of the Armed Forces in the 1951 test. We have noted that the original report had the unanimous approval of the Joint Proof Test Committee, on which we were represented by Dr. Alvin C. Graves and Colonel Paul T. Preuss, and that the amendments added by the Joint Chiefs of Staff are, with one exception, neither extensive nor serious. The exception is the use of the phrases "subject to the availability of funds" and "as can be made available" in the memoranda to the three Services.

2. While the desirability of placing these limitations on the Armed Forces participation in the 1951 test is appreciated, we feel we should mention their possible implications to the AEC. Both our budgetary planning and weapon-testing program are now predicated on the assumption of certain Armed Forces commitments for participation in the operation. Any major change or reduction in these commitments could conceivably have a serious impact on the program. Some expression of reassurance on this point would perhaps obviate later difficulties.

3. We have also considered the problem of Commission representation during the operational test period. In our view, it would be desirable to designate the Task Force Commander as the over-all Commission representative during the overseas operation. This designation should become effective at a time mutually agreed by the Commission and the Department of Defense and is now estimated to be the latter part of 1950. To assist the Task Force Commander in this duty the Commission will make available, in addition to Task Force personnel furnished by Commission Field Offices and Contractors, Colonel George F. Schlatter, USAF, from the Division of Military Application of the Commission's Washington Staff. We would appreciate the concurrence of the JCS for this delegation of authority to the Commanding General, Joint Task Force Three.

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/GC

Carl Wilson 3/22/84
REVIEWED BY DATE

By: W. Teach 4/17/86

CLASSIFIED BY: [redacted]
DOE/ST/ [redacted]
BY: EVERETT WASHINGTON 05/11/83

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4. We note that the Task Force organization places the AEC Scientific Director, Dr. Alvin C. Graves, in the dual positions of Deputy to the Task Force Commander for Scientific Affairs and Commander, Task Group 3.1 (Scientific Task Group). We feel that these positions will permit the Scientific Director to exercise a degree of authority commensurate with his heavy responsibility for the test programs.

5. The views set forth herein are intended to explain our understanding of some of those aspects of the plan which are of interest to the AEC. We believe the members of the Joint Proof Test Committee have produced an excellent report, the provisions of which form a solid framework for the detailed planning to come.

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Sumner T. Pike
Acting Chairman

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
DATE 10/10/00 BY SP-10/10/00

