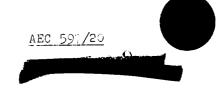
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August 11, 1953



## ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

## PLANNING FOR OPERATION CASTLE

## Note by the Secretary

The attached letter from the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) is circulated for the information of the Commission.

ROY B. SNAPP Secretary

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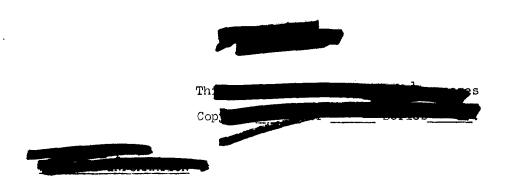
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 5, 1953

My dear Mr. Strauss:

Reference is made to Mr. Dean's letter of June 12,\*requesting concurrence of the Department of Defense on continued planning for an augmented Operation CASTLE. The Department of Defense concurs that planning should proceed on the expanded CASTLE test program as outlined in the letter mentioned above and as discussed informally with representatives of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

The Commander of the Joint Task Force SEVEN was directed in April 1953 to prepare for and conduct Operation CASTLE. The scope of the augmented CASTLE program was used as a basis for the concept of the operation. In compliance with this directive, Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN has issued his operation order Number 1-53, dated 20 June 1953; a copy of which was furnished to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission by the Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN. The Services have been provided with estimates of support requirements that they may be called upon to provide under the augmented program.

It is expected that all concerned can proceed into the operational phase of CASTLE on a basis generally similar to that in the IVY operation. The principal change reflects the extension of the mission of the Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, whereby he will exercise, within the Task Force organization, technical direction of weapons effects tests of primary concern to the Armed Forces and the weapons effects phases of developmental or other tests of atomic Weapons.

Present arrangements are considered adequate for planning, but it is considered necessary to review the program at such time as its scope and plan for execution can be fixed. It is understood that this will be about September 1953.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Robert LeBaron Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy)

Honorable Lewis L. Strauss Chairman,

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

SECREMARIAT NOTE: \* Circulated as AEC 597/17.

\*\* On File in the Division of Military Applica-

