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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

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Sandstone Vol. 1

December 10, 1947

MEMORANDUM for General Ebereton

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of some Commission views on organization for Operation Sandstone and some of the reasons underlying the Commission's decision to make a broad delegation of authority to the Test Director.

We considered initially the basic question of the relationship in the field between the Commission's Director and the Military Commander. We felt that if the test was to be a scientific success it would be necessary for the Commission's Director to have full freedom of action in technical matters. We also recognized that we were dealing with an overseas expedition, with important military operational aspects, hence it would be necessary to vest overall command authority in the Military Commander.

After discussing this question with General Hull, we were convinced that the Commission's scientific and technical interests would not be prejudiced in any way by placing the Commission's Director under General Hull's over-all control. We accordingly appointed as Test Director Captain Russell, a military officer assigned to the Commission, and by agreement with the Joint Chiefs of Staff placed him under General Hull's operational command. You are aware of the details of assignment of responsibility as agreed upon in the joint operational plan.

The Los Alamos Laboratory, a contractor's organization, is charged with the conduct of the scientific test. A group from the Laboratory, under Dr. Froman, in direct charge of test activities, is authorized by the Laboratory Director to report on test matters directly to Captain Russell as the Commission's representative.

The Commission is satisfied with these arrangements for fitting together for field service a joint military command, a Commission organization, and an organization from one Commission contractor which encompasses technical personnel from several government and private agencies.

It is the Commission's intention that, with three exceptions, the test organization in the field shall make all technical

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Carl Wilson 3/21/84
H.R. Schmidt 7/1/85
By: W. Trench 4/1/86



decisions necessary to efficiency in a very difficult operation. The three exceptions are these:

a. The Commission, on recommendation from the Test Director, and with counsel from the General Advisory Committee and the Military Liaison Committee, will approve the general plan for the test, including particularly the planned sequence of shots, with variations foreseen as possible.

b. Release of information to the public regarding the test will be made only from Washington.

c. The Test Director may, at his discretion, ask decisions from the Commission on any other matter.

In connection with the first of these three points, the final comments of the General Advisory Committee on this matter will be available by December 31. It is necessary that the Commission's decision be rendered not later than January 10.

FOR THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

David E. Lilienthal
Chairman

Series A: Copies 1 & 2: Addressee
3: CLTyler, w/transmittal memo from McCormack, dated
12-10-47
4: JVolpe, w/cc memo, McCormack to Lilienthal, dated
12-10-47
5: Mr. Lilienthal
6: MLC File
7: DMA File
Series B: No. 1 of 1 Copy: Capt JSRussell

