

ENCLOSURE

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Document No. 121-63-1

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATION IN PROOF TESTING OPERATIONS  
OF ATOMIC WEAPONS

Report by the Director of Military Application

THE PROBLEM

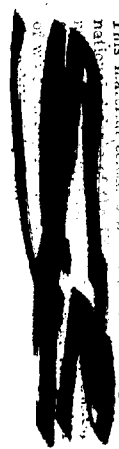
1. To reply to a request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the Military Liaison Committee for the views or concurrence of the Atomic Energy Commission on a report by the Joint Proof Test Committee, and to recommend other appropriate collateral action.

THE FACTS

2. In the letter dated July 28, (Appendix "D") assistance was requested from the Armed Forces in support of the forthcoming proof testing operations. The members of the staff of the Atomic Energy Commission were at that time made available to discuss these matters with the service agencies concerned.

In reply to this request the Joint Chiefs of Staff established the Joint Proof Test Committee with two ex officio members, one appointed by the Military Liaison Committee and other by the Atomic Energy Commission, if desired by the Commission. Captain James S. Russell was appointed as the Commission's representative on this Committee. Other members were Lt. General J. E. Hull, Major General W. E. Kepner, Rear Admiral W. S. Parsons, and (representing the Military Liaison Committee) Colonel J. H. Hinds. Captain Russell, and, as appropriate, other representatives of the Commission's staff and the Los Alamos Laboratory, participated and aided extensively in the formulation of plans which make up the report of the Joint Proof Test Committee.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
OR CHANGED TO C-D-1-61  
EX AMPLIFY C-44-8-16-65  
BY [Signature] 9-27-65



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automatic  
declassification



[REDACTED]

3. The staff of the Joint Task Force, being organized for this operation, is reaching the stages of advanced planning and the time schedule is such as to require the completion of their plans and the movement of the initial construction units to the test area early in November. The present time schedule now calls for the complete movement of construction personnel, equipment, and material to the embarkation point by December 1.

The fiscal aspects of the proof test program have been under consideration by the Atomic Energy Commission (Director of Budget and Comptroller) and fiscal representatives of the Joint Task Force Commander (Captain C. G. DeKay, USN, and Lt. Colonel W. C. Workinger, USA). Pending determination by the Task Force Commander of these items of expense which the Commission would be expected to finance, the Chairman, by letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated October 3, 1947, requested an initial transfer of funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 to the Department of the Navy from which expenses of the Task Force would be borne.

As presented in Enclosure "B" of the report by the Joint Proof Test Committee the expenses to be borne by the Commission for the Armed Forces Participation are estimated to be \$20,000,000. It therefore becomes necessary to transfer an additional \$15,000,000 to the Department of the Navy.

#### STAFF JUDGMENTS

4. The Director of the Budget, the Comptroller, the Associate Director of the Office of Public and Technical Information, and the Deputy Director of Security and Intelligence have read those parts of the report to the Joint Chiefs of Staff pertaining to their operations and concur in Appendix "A". The Office of the Director of the Budget prepared Appendices "B" and "C"

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONCLUSION

5. In view of the importance of this operation, prompt action is essential.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Atomic Energy Commission:

a. Approve the proposed reply to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the letter attached as Appendix "A"; and

b. Approve the proposed letters to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Defense in Appendices "B" and "C"; and

c. Note that no other collateral action is required in connection with this report.

APPENDIX "A"

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:  
THROUGH: THE MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE.  
SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE JOINT PROOF TEST COMMITTEE.

1. Reference is made to Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum SM 9078 of October 18, 1947, which incloses a report by the Joint Proof Test Committee. Subject to the comments below, the Atomic Energy Commission concurs in the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 a. and 16 b. of that report. The Commission has also taken note of the other recommendations of paragraph 16.

2. The following comments are intended to clarify the Commission's understanding of certain points in the paper. The Commission suggests that the Task Force Commander be informed of them in the interest of clear understanding in his relationships with the Commission's Test Director.

a. With reference to the recommendation in paragraph 16 a., the Commission assumes that the Task Force Commander would not set a time of firing which would be unsatisfactory to the Test Director.

b. The Commission agrees to the principle for reimbursement for shipping as set forth in paragraph 1 a. (8) (a) of Enclosure "B", although noting that this principle departs from the general pattern of cooperation for other logistical support from the Services. The point is mentioned here for two reasons. First, the stipulation appears to conflict with the provision of paragraph 1 b. (7) of the same enclosure. Second, the Commission inference

[REDACTED]

could be drawn from paragraph 1 of Appendix "D" to Enclosure "H" that there is in fact no Army shipping available to support this cooperative venture, except by substitution. If this inference is correct, it is suggested that the use of other shipping might be considered in the interest of over-all economy to the Government.

g. The Commission notes that Enclosure "B" provides that the Atomic Energy Commission will be charged for overseas pay of military personnel resulting from this project. Discussions with fiscal personnel of the military establishment have indicated that it would be difficult and costly to separate these charges from the pay accounts of such personnel. In the interest of over-all Government economy, it therefore appears desirable to alter this requirement.

d. The Commission assumes that the functions in paragraphs 6 and 7 of Enclosure "C", with reference to information for public release, will be coordinated in Washington and all public releases will be cleared jointly between the Secretary of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission.

e. With reference to paragraph 6 of the basic paper and paragraph 5 of Enclosure "C", it is pointed out that the date and place of the test are beyond the authority of either the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Atomic Energy Commission to downgrade at this time.

f. With reference to the first sentence of paragraph 1 of Enclosure "E", it is pointed out that the Scientific Director will have to assume responsibility in emergency for allowable exposure to radiation of scientific personnel of his organization, as in the gathering of test data after the explosion.

[REDACTED]

g. With reference to paragraph 2 of Enclosure "H", the Commission notes that it is expected to furnish all technical supplies, material, and equipment not an article of issue in any service required for the conduct of the tests. It may be advantageous for the military establishment to furnish some of the supplies, equipment, and material in this category. We therefore suggest that there should be further discussion on the staff level on the details of carrying out this task.

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION:

David E. Lilienthal  
Chairman

APPENDIX "B"

DRAFT

The Honorable  
James V. Forrestal  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter of October 3, 1947, where-  
in I indicated that the Secretary of the Treasury had been re-  
quested to effect a transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Commission  
to the Navy Department, in order to meet the initial expenses  
of the proof test program.

The Commission is now in receipt of a proposed budget  
for carrying out the program, which indicates a requirement of  
\$20,000,000. By letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, copy  
attached, I have requested that a further transfer of \$15,000,000  
be made to the Navy Department.

If you agree to the above transfer of funds, it is re-  
quested that you inform the Secretary of the Treasury of your  
concurrence.

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

David E. Lillenthal  
Chairman

Attachment (Appendix "C")



APPENDIX "C"

DRAFT

The Honorable  
The Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter of October 3, 1947, requesting a transfer of funds from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Navy Department, in which I indicated that further transfers would be required during the current fiscal year.

Additional funds are now required by the Navy Department. It is requested therefore that, under the authority contained in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1948, under the heading "Atomic Energy Commission," a transfer of \$15,000,000 be effected as follows:

Charge

Salaries and Expenses, Atomic Energy Commission, 1948	\$15,000,000
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Credit

Salaries and Expenses, Atomic Energy Commission, 1948 (allotment to Navy)	\$15,000,000
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Of the above amount, it is estimated that \$475,000 will be required for expenses of travel and therefore chargeable to limitation .002 cited in the General Accounting Office Accounts and Procedures Letter No. 11858, dated August 8, 1947. The balance of the amount to be transferred is required for general expenses and is chargeable to limitation .001.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Secretary of National Defense, requesting that he notify you directly of his concurrence in this transfer.

U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

David E. Lillenthal  
Chairman

APPENDIX "D"

July 28, 1947

Lt. General L. H. Brereton, Chairman  
 Military Liaison Committee  
 P. O. Box 1814  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear General Brereton:

The Military Liaison Committee is aware of the need for and some of the problems attending, proof-testing operations atomic weapons which were discussed in joint conference on July 16.

The Director of the Los Alamos Laboratory is preparing preliminary general plan to meet the technical objectives of operation. While this plan is being formulated, assistance of the Armed Forces is requested in the following:

- a. Recommendations regarding the designation of a test location. The location should include land areas for three detonation sites, one firing booth, and several locations for high speed photography and other instrumentation. It should be reasonably close to an established base and airfield.
- b. Readying a unit from the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project to engage in transportation, assembly and final placing of the weapons. Scientific supervisor personnel will be supplied by the Atomic Energy Commission.
- c. Readying an airplane drone unit to provide eight drone aircraft to take chemical samples of the bomb cloud immediately after detonation. The sampling plan, selection of filters, packaging, shipment, and the radio-chemistry will be done by Atomic Energy Commission agencies. A transport aircraft will be required to carry the samples from the test location to Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- d. The designation of a planning group or commander within the Armed Forces with whom plans can be made for logistic support, surface and air transportation, service personnel, ships, landing craft, etc.
- e. Readying Engineer troops to engage in the preparation of detonation, control and instrument sites.
- f. Readying a unit to engage in both high speed and general photography.

7LDA 7/28/47

MLC

- g. Readying a health unit. A group of qualified personnel is needed to monitor radiations and to ensure the safety of those employed in the vicinity of radioactive materials.

Members of the staff of the Atomic Energy Commission will be available to discuss with the service agencies the detailed functional requirements for the items outlined above.

This request for assistance from the Armed Forces should not be considered complete, but rather a first step dealing with those problems in which it appears that present planning could be initiated with benefit.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Lillenthal  
Chairman

Copies:

- 1, 2, 3 - Addressee
- 4 - Carroll L. Wilson
- 5 - MLC File
- 6 - General McCormack