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UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Honorable Robert LeBaron
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee
to the atomic Energy Commission

Dear Mr. LeBaron:

Subsequent to my letter to you of September 23, 1952 on the Commission's requirement for use of Bikini Atoll, our General Manager and our Director of Military Application have conferred with the Commander and the Scientific Director of Joint Task Force 132 with respect to plans for future overseas test operations. Their discussion was concerned specifically with the requirements for overseas tests as the Commission now sees them and the capabilities of the Task Force, including its scientific elements, to conduct them.

The reference conferees concluded that detonation in any one operation of two devices of several megatons yield each was feasible provided operational plans permitted detonation of one at Bikini and one at Eniwetok; that to attempt to detonate both on one atoll would require an operation of such length as to be impracticable.

Having in mind the conferees conclusions, the Commission has considered and approved, subject to Department of Defense concurrence, the following criteria for operations CASTLE and REDWING:

- a. Planning of each operation should proceed on the basis of detonating two devices of several megatons yield.
- b. The maximum number of detonations for any one operation should normally be four, of which no more than two should be megaton yield devices.
- c. The total of four detonations would be increased only if an increased number could be accommodated reasonably, a situation which might obtain in the event one or more air-drop detonations were programmed. In this event the number of megaton devices would still be held to two.

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Mr. LeBaron

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The Commission considers that the above scopes for CASTLE and RED-WING are essential in order not to restrict development progress. It is understood, however, that to proceed on this basis will probably require changes in present JTF plans for CASTLE; that specifically there will be required continued base support for the Air Task Group at a place other than Eniwetok. We understand further that the Commander, JTF-132, is reviewing his requirements in the light of the proposed scopes of operation and that, if indicated, his new requirements will be submitted shortly.

In view of the limited time for preparations for CASTLE, the Commission is proceeding on the assumption that operations of the above scope can be conducted. We would appreciate as early an indication as possible of whether the Department of Defense can support the proposed operations and its concurrence in the above criteria.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Dean
Chairman

CC: Mr. Tyler
Dr. Bradbury
Reuben Cole
J. C. Clark
A. C. Graves

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