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IN REPLY REFER TO:

J- 18666

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A-91-048
FILE = 8-49

1 July 1953

I/1991

Maj. Gen. P. W. Clarkson
Headquarters, DEARPAC
Fort Shafter
Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Park:

I have heard informally that the Commission would be interested in discussing with you and me the present Castle schedule with a view to obtaining our ideas of the feasibility of the program. I have not had an opportunity to discuss my views of this question with you, but would like to present them to you in this note in order that you can consider the question prior to a more complete discussion at some later date.

The following table lists the code names of the shots in the first column; the present target dates in the second column; a reasonably pessimistic schedule because of weather delays in the third column; and finally, in the fourth column, a most pessimistic schedule which envisages a two-week postponement at some time in the schedule due to fall-out, wave action, or other unanticipated, but possible, minor catastrophe.

I	II	III	IV
Hectar	2/15	2/22	2/22
Union	2/25	3/11	3/11
Bravo	3/8	3/29	3/29
Koon	3/17	4/14	4/28
Echo	3/24	4/28	5/12
Yankee	4/3	5/15	5/29

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

1ST REVIEW DATE: 8-29-97
 AUTHORITY: EAOIC (EAOIC ELAID)
 NAME: [Signature]
 2ND REVIEW DATE: 12-17-17
 AUTHORITY: AUC
 NAME: [Signature]

1. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE X)
 2. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
 3. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
 4. CONTINUATION (DATE)
 5. COMMENTS (DATE)

LOS ALAMOS
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Several comments on the above table are in order. First, although the most pessimistic schedule given would be most unpleasant, it does not seem to me to make the operation impossible or even unfeasible. Second, the target dates given in the second column were never intended

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Maj. Gen. P. W. Clarkson

1 July 1953

to be a realistic schedule since the intervals between shots were selected on the basis of the one known requirement at that time, radiochemistry. Moreover, the delayed schedule given in column III is computed on the assumption that there is a postponement of each shot of one week on account of weather, and that these delays are cumulative. It is most pessimistic to assume that a one-week postponement of the first shot would inevitably mean a one-week postponement of the last shot, but such an assumption should make it possible for us to state that we cannot foresee a worse schedule than the one presented and that a most probable schedule would be intermediate between that in column II and those in columns III and IV.

I propose that, on your next trip to Washington, we discuss this point more fully in case we are requested to meet with the Commission. In that case, we might present some such story to them with our feeling that we do not yet see any factor which makes the Castle program look impossible. However, if asked which shot, if eliminated, would do most to ease the job, I would propose to answer that the fourth shot (the one on Eninman) seems to add the most difficulties and that, if the Commission proposes to eliminate any shot, we will be helped most if that shot can be eliminated immediately. However, I would not propose that we recommend the elimination of any shot.

Duncan Curry, Bill Ogle and I would like to come to Washington some time during the month of July. If you also are proposing a visit at that time, I would appreciate your informing me of your plans in order that we could be in Washington during your visit. We could discuss this question in more detail at that time.

Please give my best wishes to Mrs. Clarkson.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
ALVIN C. GRAVES
ALVIN C. GRAVES

ACG:vw

Distribution:

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