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J.C.S. 1823/188

28 December 1954

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JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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DECISION ON J.C.S. 1823/188

A Report by the Joint Strategic Plans Committee

on

MARK 15 PROGRAM

Note by the Secretaries

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	96-TS-1126
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1. On 28 December 1954 the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the recommendation in paragraph 10 of J.C.S. 1823/188.
2. The memorandum in Enclosure "A" was forwarded as SM-1102-54, dated 28 December 1954, to the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission.
3. This decision now becomes a part of and shall be attached as the top sheet of J.C.S. 1823/188.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>04/26/95</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: <u>DAEC/DC/EA/ADD</u>	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>W. Phillips</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>8-26-95</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DGE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: <u>ADD</u>	4. COORDINATE WITH: <u>TOP</u>
NAME: <u>W. Phillips</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

EDWIN H. J. CARNS,
 RICHARD H. PHILLIPS,
 Joint Secretariat.

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10 December 1954

Pages 1182 - 1186, incl.

REPORT BY THE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANS COMMITTEE

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

MARK 15 PROGRAM

References: a. J.C.S. 1823/188
b. J.C.S. 2096/20

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See Decision on dtd (12-28-54)
See N/A dtd (1-12-55)

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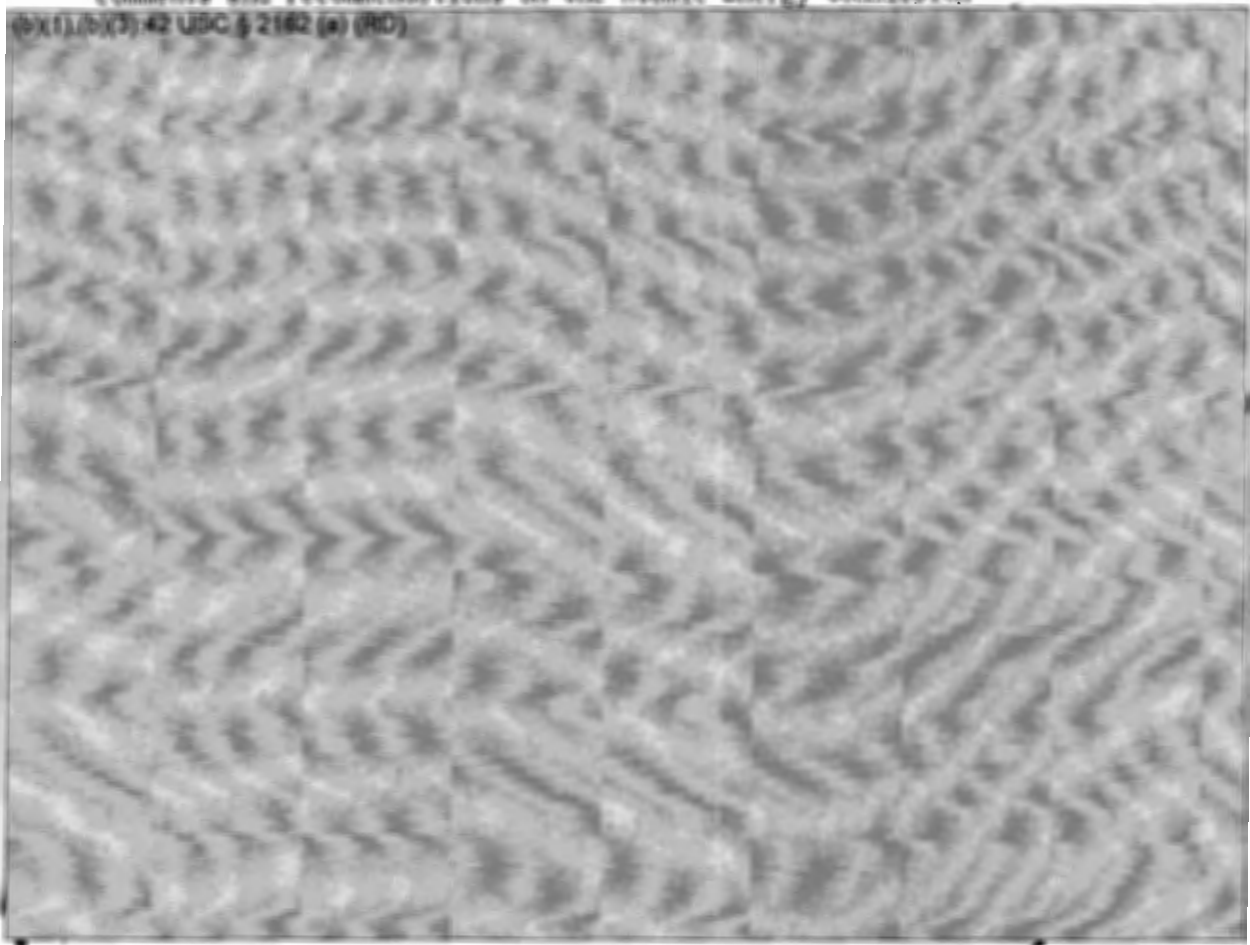
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MARK 15 PROGRAM

THE PROBLEM

1. In response to a memorandum* by the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission, to submit comments and recommendations on the Atomic Energy Commission

(S)(1)(b)(3) 42 USC § 2162 (a) (RD)



4. For additional facts bearing on the problem, see Enclosure

"B".

DISCUSSION

5. Considering the availability of enriched lithium, the Atomic Energy Commission proposal** appears to be consistent with the Department of Defense desires for thermonuclear weapon production through July 1955. In view of the marked success of enriched

* Enclosure to J.C.S. 1823/186
** Appendix to J.C.S. 1823/186

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More definitive guidance should be reflected in revisions to the military characteristics.

6. Since it has not been feasible to estimate the composition of the atomic stockpile beyond fiscal year 1956, it is not possible to relate the adequacy of the Atomic Energy Commission lithium separation facilities to the Department of Defense requirements for thermonuclear weapons. However, there are some indications that increasing emphasis on light weight thermonuclear weapons may increase the emphasis on the lighter thermonuclear fuels (lithium deuteride) and thereby alter the present lithium to or alloy ratios of thermonuclear weapons. The Atomic Energy Commission is in a better position than the Department of Defense to evaluate the possible impact of these technological developments on the adequacy of the programmed lithium separation facilities.

CONCLUSIONS

7. The Atomic Energy Commission proposal

(S)(X)(S)(X) 42 USC § 2162 (a) (FOI)



9. The Atomic Energy Commission is in a better position than the Department of Defense to evaluate the possible impact of technological developments on the adequacy of programmed lithium separation facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff forward the memorandum in Enclosure "A", which reflects the above conclusions, to the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission.

11. No recommendation is made as to the distribution of this paper to commanders of unified or specified commands.

*Appendix to J.C.S. 1823/186

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ENCLOSURE "A"

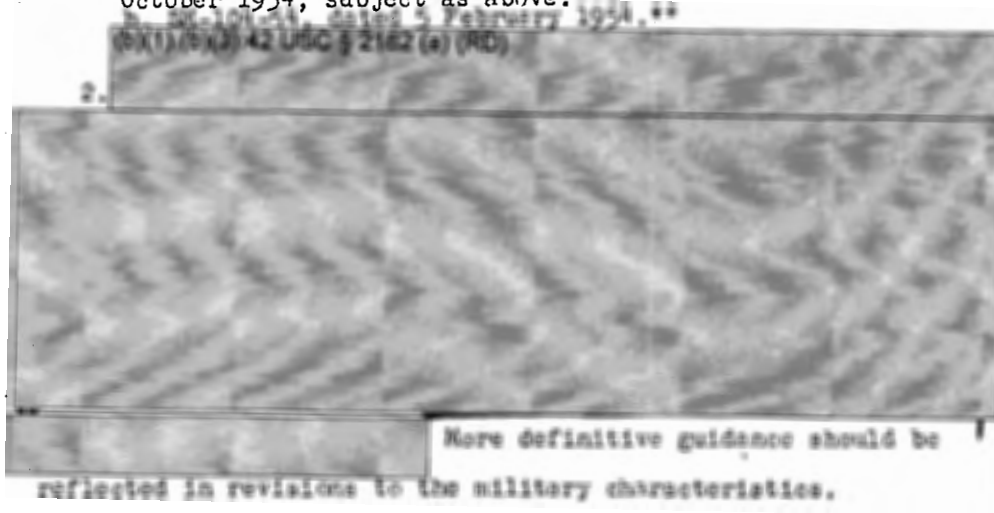
D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE
TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Subject: Mark 15 Program

1. Reference is made to:

a. Memorandum* for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
by the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, dated 25
October 1954, subject as above.



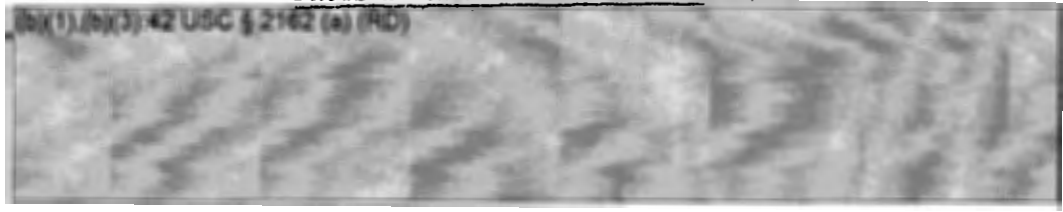
3. Since it has not been feasible to estimate the composition of the atomic stockpile beyond fiscal year 1956, it is not possible to relate the adequacy of the Atomic Energy Commission lithium separation facilities to the Department of Defense requirements for thermonuclear weapons. However, there are some indications that increasing emphasis on light weight thermonuclear weapons may increase the emphasis on the lighter thermonuclear fuels (lithium deuteride) and thereby alter the present lithium to or alloy ratios of thermonuclear weapons. The Atomic Energy Commission is in a better position than the Department of Defense to evaluate the possible impact of these technological developments on the adequacy of the programmed lithium separation facilities.

* Enclosure to J.C.S. 1823/186
** Enclosure "A" to J.C.S. 2096/20

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ENCLOSURE "B"

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM



2. On 5 February 1954 the Joint Chiefs of Staff forwarded a memorandum* to the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, which contained the following guidance on the yields desired in thermo-nuclear weapons:



* Enclosure "A" to J.C.S. 2096/20

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