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~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ TO MAJOR GENERAL A W BETTS FROM N E

BRADBURY PD

THE PERIODIC PROPOSAL TO REPIRE THE HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBS IN AIR OVER NEVADA OR SOMEWHERE TO MEASURE THEIR RADIATION IN GREAT DETAIL APPEARS TO HAVE ARISEN AGAIN PD THERE FOLLOW HEREWITH SOME COMMENTS THEREON CLN

/1/ IF SUCH EXPERIMENTS CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN AIR AT NEVADA ANY OTHER TEST CAN AND OUGHT TO BE PD WE HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DO THIS SO FAR AND SEE NO SIGNS OF SUCH PERMISSION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE PD WE MOST STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT NO APPRECIABLE

CFN A W N E /1/

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 AUTHORITY: DOE-DPC  
 BY E.G. BOGER DATE 12/22/77  
 [Signature]

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AMOUNT OF PRACTICAL EFFORT TAKE PLACE WITH RESPECT TO THIS PROBLEM UNTIL THE SUPREME TEST DIRECTOR HAS BEEN QUERIED AND HAS GIVEN TENTATIVE APPROVAL PD MY PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT SUCH APPROVAL HAS ABOUT THE CHANCE OF A SNOWBALL IN YOU KNOW WHERE PD

/2/ THE HE AND NON-FISSION NUCLEAR PARTS OF A FEW NAGASAKI BOMBS PROBABLY STILL EXIST PD NEW DETONATORS AND NEW X-UNITS WOULD BE REQUIRED PD THEIR HE SYSTEMS REQUIRE A TRAP DOOR TYPE OF ASSEMBLY ON THE GROUND AND ARE HIDEOUSLY UNSAFE PD THE DIFFERENT X-UNIT WOULD CERTAINLY CAUSE SOME DIFFERENCE IN THE RADIATION SPECTRUM AND DISTRIBUTION PD SO WOULD THE ABSENCE OF THE OLD RADARS PD IF ANYBODY WANTS TO TAKE SUCH AN EXPERIMENT SERIOUSLY CMM IT IS OUR OPINION THAT A MK 6 BOMB MUST BE USED PD EVEN THESE HAVE ONLY A MOST PRIMITIVE MANUAL TYPE OF ACTIVE MATERIAL INSERTION PD WE COULD MAKE A REPLICA PIT IF WE HAD TO PD HOWEVER CMM THE SYSTEM WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE IDENTICAL WITH THE NAGASAKI BOMB AND LASL IS NOT REPEAT NOT GOING TO MAKE A REPLICA OF THE NAGASAKI BOMB IN THIS DAY AND AGE FOR THIS TYPE OF PURPOSE PD IT IS WORTH NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE EFFORT PD IF A MK 6 WILL NOT DO - THEN FORGET IT

/3/ WE COULD PROBABLY MAKE A REASONABLE REPLICA OF THE HIROSHIMA DEVICE PD SOME OLD LB'S PROBABLY EXIST IN PART PD THEY ARE UNSAFE

CFN /2/ X-UNITS X-UNIT MK 6 MK 6 /3/

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/REMEMBER PARSON'S FAMOUS BOMB BAY INSERTION OF THE ACTIVE MATERIAL QUERY/ AND SOME TYPE OF SAFING WOULD HAVE TO BE DREAMED UP PD WHETHER THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT TOO MUCH MODIFICATION IS NOT KNOWN PD THE PROPELLANT NO LONGER EXISTS AND WOULD HAVE TO BE DIFFERENT PD THE FUZING NO LONGER EXISTS PD THE INITIATORS WOULD HAVE TO BE DIFFERENT PD NONE OF THESE DIFFERENCES ARE PROBABLY QUITE AS FUNDAMENTAL AS THE DIFFERENCES IN THE NAGASAKI/MK 6 VERSIONS BUT THEY WILL TAKE TIME AND EFFORT TO WORK OUT PD

DOE ARCHIVES  
/4/ UNLESS THESE EXPERIMENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE REAL CMM WE SEE NO REASON TO GIVE MUCH MORE THAN IDLE SPECULATIVE EFFORT THERETO N AND DO NOT REAL WORK PD LET US NOT KID OURSELVES - MAKING THESE DEVICES AND SHOOTING THEM IS GOING TO BE REAL WORK AND TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE WORK FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF WEAPON DEVELOPMENT PD IN MY PERSONAL OPINION CMM ALTHOUGH DOUBTLESS BASED MORE ON EMOTION THAN ON SCIENTIFIC REASON CMM THE EXPERIMENTS WILL ADD LITTLE OF PRACTICAL UTILITY IN THE HIGH LEVEL DOSE RATE AREA ANYWAY PD WHAT DOES ONE DO WITH THE INFORMATION WHEN /AND IF/ ONE HAS IT QUERY SOME PEOPLE GET EXPOSED AT SOME LEVEL AND DIE SMCLN SOME DO NOT SMCLN SOME GET MALIGNANCIES

CFN NAGASAKI/MK 6 /4/

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SMCLN SOME DO NOT PD THAT WILL REMAIN TRUE WHETHER WE KNOW  
THE MLD 50 TO 5 CMM 10 OR 50 ROENTGENS PD BASICALLY CMM WITH  
TEST MONEY CRUELLY SHORT AND WITH TESTING PHILOSOPHY CRUELLY  
RESTRICTIVE WHY SHOULD WE WASTE EFFORT ON THIS SORT OF THING  
QUERY REFERENCE THIS MESSAGE DIR-1854 PD

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