

OFFICE DIARY
GLENN T. SEABORG
Chf USAEC, 1961-72
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Dear Mr. President:

During the previous administration it was decided by the President not to proceed with the development of a ~~SECRETED~~ bomb. As a result of that decision, the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission have restricted activities in that yield range to exploratory and conceptual investigations. The advanced, ~~SECRETED~~ concept, which was proven in the DOMINIC atmospheric test series, could be regarded in one sense as an outgrowth of such conceptual investigations, but it would require further testing to develop a stockpile version.

The Secretary of Defense, in reviewing the results of recent tests, tentatively decided to proceed with a formal development requirement for the highest yield bomb compatible with B-52 aircraft laydown delivery that could be stockpiled without nuclear testing. This decision was forwarded to the Atomic Energy Commission on March 6, 1963, and the AEC was requested to provide estimates of yield, time scale, and costs for such a development. In response to the DOD request, the AEC has indicated that, without test, stockpiling of a ~~SECRETED~~ laydown bomb based on existing techniques and weighing 35,000 pounds could be initiated in somewhat less than four years. The estimated total cost of the development and stockpiling of ~~SECRETED~~ units would be approximately \$290,000,000, consisting of \$20,000,000 for development, \$20,000,000 for fabrication, and \$250,000,000 for materials.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED *
WITH DELETIONS
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

J. J. [Signature] 7/19/89
REVIEWED BY DATE

* Ltr. OASD McDonald TO DOE, OC

RECEIVED DATA dated 5/31/89

ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1954
UNCLASSIFIED

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The question of the need for high yield bombs has been reviewed with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We and the JCS recommend that in consideration of the political and psychological aspects of such weapons, you authorize the development and production in limited numbers of the maximum yield laydown bomb [REDACTED] compatible with B-52 delivery, that can be developed without further nuclear tests.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of Defense

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

The President

The White House

RECORDED
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
AS ORDERED