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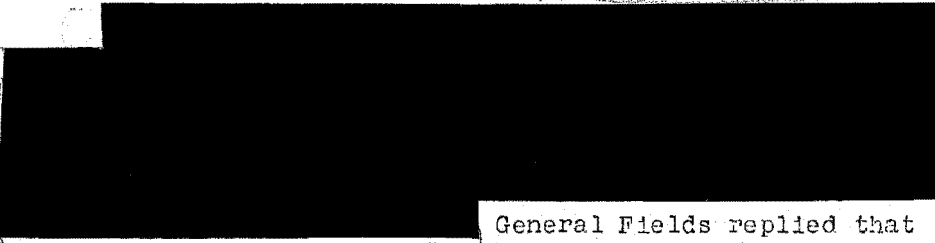
85th AEC-MLC Meeting
10-1-53

2. CASTLE Program

General Fields described his recent trip to Eniwetok, Los Alamos and Livermore and the proposed scope of the CASTLE Program resulting from discussions held at the laboratories. The program that the Division of Military Application contemplated proposing to the Commission would include seven devices and would commence approximately March 1, 1954. He discussed the reasons for selecting the March 1 date and indicated that both the Joint Task Force and Los Alamos Test Group thought it feasible to test seven devices beginning at that time. The test operation would end around April 30 with the last shot scheduled for about April 20.

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In response to a question from Admiral Wright, General Fields said that it is not planned to test any devices separately and at an earlier date than the series beginning March 1, nor are air drops planned.



General Fields replied that this development would probably take about one and one-half to two years.

There was general agreement on the scope of the CASTLE program as presented by General Fields. Following formal AEC approval, DOD support of the operation would be sought. Mr. LeBaron said that he would discuss the proposed program and the question of DOD logistic support with the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Strauss said that a formal request to the DOD for this support would be forthcoming.

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