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HQ TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

INCOMING MESSAGE

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TELECON MSG NO. 3505	SUBJECT Postwar Atomic Bomb Program	DATE 30 Aug 45
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TO: COMGENAIR	INFO:	FROM: COMGENUSASTAF
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ACTION COPY

300910Z

GEN. TODD

(Personal to Eaker from Lemay)

1. From various sources this headquarters is aware that plans for postwar atomic bomb program are imminent, if not actually in course of preparation. The following are the USASTAF observations upon this matter forwarded for your consideration when the AAF's participation comes up for discussion:

- A. The efficacy of the atomic bomb has been established.
- B. It is essential to national security that U.S. leadership in this field be maintained.
- C. The atomic bomb is essentially an air weapon, and therefore, it is incumbent upon the Army Air Forces to provide full cooperation to insure U.S. leadership.
- D. Such leadership can be continued by:
 - (1) Continuing an expanded AAF program on a top priority war-time basis.
 - (2) Maintaining and utilizing present experience.
 - (3) Providing facilities and personnel for expansion.
- E. In order to utilize present experience:
 - (1) There must be a plan for orderly transition from the present to a post-war basis which envisions our ability on short notice to deliver atomic bombs of the FM "Nagasaki" type. Concurrently with training in delivery of production atomic bombs, it is essential that a program be carried on preferably at a training base which is aimed at improving the reliability of every element of long range delivery. This work should be coordinated closely with the related program of the atomic bomb group which will be directed toward simplification of the field assembly while maintaining and, if possible, increasing the inherent reliability which is mandatory in a device of such power.

DECLASSIFIED
By: Air Force Declassification Office
27 May 2010

D	ACTION	I	C/S - DC/OPS - DC/S P&A - DC/S TME
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TELECON MSG NO.	SUBJECT	DATE
3505	Postwar Atomic Bomb Program	30 Aug 45
TO:	INFO:	FROM:
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Continued from page 1

(2) The 509th Composite Bomb Group and associated units should remain intact as a nucleus for an expanded program. Until such time as a large organization is developed, the 509th Composite Bomb Group should be maintained as a unit capable of being dispatched to any locality by air for employment against an enemy.

(3) AAF personnel experienced in the project should remain in it for some time in the future.

(4) Present special and organizational equipment and supplies should remain available to the project.

(5) The present program for development and tests should be continued and pursued with vigor.

F. In order to insure continued leadership in the field of atom bombardment, the following is required:

(1) A comprehensive plan for an atomic bombardment organization, probably a wing, with attached units sufficient to assure full mobility so as to render it capable of immediate independent operation in any part of the world.

(2) An adequate program for personnel training which must include a program of selection of personnel of all categories, both officers and enlisted men, to be trained for atomic work, and a program of college courses by selected institutions to be attended by the above personnel. These courses to include electronics, physics, metallurgy, chemistry, radio and other subjects related to atomic bombing.

(3) Adequate bases for training.

(4) Adequate facilities for materiel development.

The design of the bomb and the design of the airplane to carry the bomb, probably will be closely related as long as the bomb remains heavy and awkward. It is also true that the design of the airplane is affected due to the emphasis on final reliability of delivery.

(5) Adequate facilities for tests.

D	ACTION	I	C/S - DC/OPRS - DC/S P&A - DC/S TME
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	3505 Postwar Atomic Bomb Program	30 Aug 45
TO:	INFO:	FROM:
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Continued from page 2

(6) The determination of the military characteristics for an aircraft specifically to be employed in atomic bombing.

G. The proper location of post-war development and training bases in the United States is essential to continued leadership in this field. Such bases should:

- (1) Be accessible from civilian scientific centers.
- (2) Be removed from centers of population and airways, but have good rail and road access thereto.
- (3) Be in areas having excellent year around high altitude test weather.
- (4) Be near sea level.
- (5) Have large areas for maneuver and practice bombing.

H. From subparagraph G. above, it appears that the Victorville-Palm Springs-Blythe-Muroc area is the best suited for the continued atomic bomb program with either Palm Springs or Victorville as the principal base.

I. Every effort must be made to avoid post-war planning for this project on too small a scale. In particular, a development site must not be selected which prevents expansion or full operation because of terrain, population centers, poor communication or conflict with other government agencies.

J. The above comments cover only the AAF participation in the post-war atomic bomb program. Officers are available in this theater who are qualified to discuss these matters in detail.

END

TOD: 1145Z

ACTION GEN. TODD

INFO:

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