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RS-9320/56

JUN 29 1966

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In accordance with established procedures, Sandia Corporation has participated with the AEC, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, and the Air Force in the recovery and other operations involved in clean-up of the accident involving nuclear weapons in Spain. This participation is part of the AEC "Hot Spot" team which has been established for several years to assist in the evaluation and clean-up and to gather information where weapons are involved in accidents. The accident occurred when a B-52 crashed into the rear of a KC-135 during the maneuvering preparatory to refueling.

[Redacted]

DOE b(3)

Within a few hours after the accident occurred, one of our staff members in the Weapon Systems Safety Group along with personnel from AEC, LASL, and the Air Force Directorate of Nuclear Safety departed for the accident scene aboard an Air Force C-135. They participated in the initial evaluation of what occurred during the breakup and impact of the aircraft and weapon impact information. One of the weapons had a sixteen foot chute deployed caused by physical breakup of the tail section. This weapon impacted in a soft embankment and remained relatively intact. The other two weapons immediately discovered apparently free-fell and the HE detonated, one point, as a result of the shock on impact.

[Redacted]

DOE b(3)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	(DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)))
1ST REVIEW DATE: 7/27/77	CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
AUTHORITY: ODC	CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: S-FRD
NAME: LAWRENCE	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
2ND REVIEW DATE: 1/24/99	4. COORDINATE WITH:
AUTHORITY: DDP	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
NAME: [Signature]	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): 3 Pages

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES
NO. 1 OF 1 COPIES, SERIES 2

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As you well know, the fourth weapon was not found anywhere on land and after a short period of intensive search, everyone was convinced that it had not landed intact anywhere on the land area. From the testimony of eye witnesses, it was apparent that some portion of the weapon had come down on the 64 foot chute and landed in the sea. However, there were some indications of alpha contamination on aircraft parts and subsequently a determination that one of the crew members, who floated way out to sea on his parachute due to the high winds aloft, had a relatively heavy body burden of alpha contamination. From these factors, there was considerable conjecture that the fourth unit might have detonated, one point, as a result of colliding with some object in the air. If this had occurred, classified parts, including the secondary, could have been scattered and might have been buried on land. With all of the conjecture on the scene, it soon became apparent to General Wilson that he needed expert help in evaluating what might have occurred and where the most likely place was for the weapon to be. Therefore, on the recommendation of Sandia Corporation personnel at the scene, General Wilson requested the additional support of Sandia Corporation Aerodynamic personnel as well as personnel from the Systems Engineering Group at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and ballistic experts from Eglin Air Force Base.

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Distribution:

M0659A Elva Barfield, FOIA Officer/OPA; DOE/AL

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