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PUBLICLY RELEASABLE  
LANL Classification Group

31 May 1946

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Subject: Bombing Tables for Atomic Bombs.

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To: The Chief of Ordnance  
U. S. Army,  
Washington, D. C.

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1. During the past war the Manhattan Engineer District handled certain functions which can now be turned over to agencies that are normally employed along those lines. Among such functions are those of producing bombing tables for atomic bombs both present and future models, and for the necessary practice bombs which will be employed by the Army Air Forces in training for their use. It is requested that the Ordnance Department assume responsibility for such tables.

2. The responsibility for security for atomic bombs and matters pertaining thereto continues to rest with the Manhattan Engineer District. Such responsibility cannot, at this time, be delegated to any other agency. In order that proper security may be maintained in the preparation of bombing tables, the following procedure should be carried out by the Ordnance Department. I should be glad to discuss either personally or thru members of my staff the reasons for the procedure.

a. The number of persons involved in any way, in the preparation of bombing tables for atomic bombs and for practice items representing atomic bombs must be kept to an absolute minimum.

b. The attached Personnel Security Questionnaire blanks must be filled out by each person, whether officer or civilian, who will be initially involved. The blanks are to be returned to the Manhattan Engineer District through the Ordnance Liaison Officer in my office, Colonel Butler. Any available supplementary information concerning previous security checks on individuals concerned and any additional information which will clarify their positions, responsibilities, and the necessity for their being involved on these particular tables should also be furnished. The Manhattan Engineer District will notify the desired Ordnance Department representative whether or not the persons submitted are suitably cleared for their part in the program.

c. As time goes on, personnel changes will probably necessitate that other persons be involved. Personnel changes must be kept at a minimum. The names of all personnel to be involved in future, must, at the appropriate time,

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be submitted to the Manhattan Engineer District with the information requested in b above. They should not be given work in connection with these items until properly cleared.

d. No persons will be given access to ballistic data, or information pertaining thereto, concerning atomic bombs and practice replicas thereof, who have not been properly cleared for such information by the Manhattan Engineer District.

e. The bombing tables referred to herein and all data pertaining thereto shall be classified as Secret. Bombing tables, when published, will be marked "May be Taken Into Combat."

f. All bombing tables for these items, except the necessary file copies for use by the Ordnance Department will be turned over to the Manhattan Engineer District for distribution. No distribution of these tables will be made by the Ordnance Department.

g. The tables will refer to atomic bombs and practice replicas thereof by a designated code title (such as Bomb, Practice, M107). Other names or nicknames will not appear in the tables.

h. Indices, reports, or other publications which are published in a routine manner by the Ordnance Department will not list bombing tables for atomic bombs or practice replicas thereof.

3. To aid in the preparation of complete bombing tables for the present atomic bomb and the bomb practice M107 the Manhattan District will turn over to the Ordnance Department both the basic data on which previous special tables were made and copies of those tables together with the reports which outline the procedure used in their computation. In this connection, arrangements will be made, upon proper clearance of the necessary Ordnance Personnel, to have Dr. Shapiro, from Los Alamos, visit Aberdeen Proving Ground in order to present and explain the basic data.

4. As far as ballistic tests are concerned, it is the intention of the Manhattan Engineer District, that in the future, the District will conduct such preliminary drops as it desires under its own jurisdiction. When it is felt that the design of an item is sufficiently stabilized and that sufficient preliminary drops have been made to assure its suitability, the Ordnance Department will be notified that it can proceed with preparation of bombing tables. The Ordnance Department may then conduct such ballistic tests, under its own jurisdiction, as are necessary to obtain basic data for the compilation of complete bombing tables. These tests are to be conducted at whatever place is most suitable and at the same time satisfactory to the Manhattan Engineer District from the security standpoint. Here again special security clearances must be obtained for all Ordnance personnel to be involved.

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5. Basic data and films produced in the preparation of the above tables may be retained by the Ordnance Department, properly filled and under the sole jurisdiction of persons previously cleared as in 2 above. All developing and handling of film must be done by properly cleared personnel or turned over to the Manhattan Engineer District for processing. Films will not be sent to commercial organizations for processing.

L. R. GROVES,  
Major General, U.S.A.

CC: Copy #1 Col. R. G. Butler, Jr.  
Copy #2 Col. E. E. Wilhoit, Jr. ✓

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