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November 2, 1961

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SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED
2-16-97			
NOV 1961			
SANDIA SYSTEMS DIVISION			
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO			
43/97			
P. H. CONNER			

R. S. CLAASSEN - 5100

Re: Sandia's Preliminary Contacts with LASL and IRL on Sleek Warhead Problem

Our first approach to the weapons laboratories on the importance of tapered warheads was in May, 1960, when at the request of Charlie Bidwell a visit was made to LASL. J. D. Shreve and Sam McAlees (7134) accompanied Charlie, and they presented the arguments to Bill Chambers of W-Division at LASL. Bill seemed interested but indicated that before any work could be done it would require that the DOD express an official interest in such warheads.

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To the best of my knowledge, nothing came of this visit. By early 1961, the arguments had become perfectly clear in the minds of the Vulnerability Group that sleek re-entry vehicles were a "must" in our arsenal. The arguments for such a shape were rather firm, and a visit was made to Livermore where Charlie Bidwell and Jim Shreve joined with Charlie Winters and Leo Gutierrez in a meeting with IRL personnel, Carl Haussmann and Jack Rosengren. Charlie Winters was given the outline of some "empty" shapes into which device should be fitted. This meeting resulted in someone from Livermore arranging a meeting at Air Force Ballistic Systems Division. This BSD meeting took place in April, 1961, and involved Charlie Bidwell and Jack Ames.

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In looking back at these instances, it now seems clear that our contact with the weapons laboratories was not done in a sufficiently strong manner. Carl Haussmann does head the large weapons division

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SANDIA SYSTEMATIC DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO <u>U</u>	
ON CHANGING MARKED DATE	
AUTHORITY	<u>R. B. Crow</u>
RECORD ID	<u>97SN782</u>
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R. S. Claassen

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at Livermore, and this would still seem to be a reasonable place for contact with that laboratory. I suspect that we might have done better at LASL if the contact had been made with Harold Agnew.

I think that in spite of what the laboratories say, they still depend heavily upon strong and official interest by the DOD before they put much effort on a new weapon design problem. As you know, the Vulnerability Group has a very clear picture of the warhead requirements for the penetration R/V concept. I am afraid that this study has not yet been known to LASL and LRL at appropriate levels. I do think it might be advisable to arrange for a formal presentation of the Vulnerability Group's recommendations to LASL and LRL as soon as possible.

Original Signed By  
T. B. COOK

THOMAS B. COOK, JR. - 5110

TBC:abp

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