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SECRET

BACKGROUND PAPER ON WHY THE B61-11 IS BEING DEVELOPED

Obtained Under the Freedom of Information Act W Hans M. Kristensen

- (U) B53 oldest weapon in inventory -- while safe, it nevertheless has none of the modern safety features used in newer systems

(U) Project not submitted to the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) for approval due to ASD(ISP) concerns that Congress would not support it

(U) Decision made to place on hold pending validation of the target set requiring the B53 during the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)

(U) Nov 94 - Congressional election changes committee chairmanships -- ASD(ISP) reenergizes project with a strong recommendation that the effort be completed before Congress changes again

OADR

TV DV:

Maj Selva for Lt Col Mullins/SAF/AQQS(N)/693-6303/kls/22 Sep 95

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(U) Proposed design requires B-2 flight testing, which when staffed through AF, is not considered supportable: cannot complete program within desired time frame (by next election), regardless, would require "bumping" already programmed conventional munition flight testing and necessarily extend the B-2 flight test program beyond current completion date in FY 2000, at an estimated cost of \$50M

(WS) Negotiated design, sanctioned by HQ USAF, is a B61-11 with identical flight characteristics as the existing B61-7 ("a duck")

(3) Feb 95 - Concept staffed, and the NWC approves it and requires the appropriate congressional committee members be briefed of the NWC decision (Tab 5)

(U) Apr 95 - DOE and ATSD(AE) begin visits to congressional staffers

(U) Staffers for House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriation Subcommittees, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the House National Security Committee briefed

- (U) AF work on the B61-11 from Jan 94 to Jul 95 limited to staffing through to the NWC, and AF/XORC placing a \$5.2M funding wedge in the FY97 POM for B-52 flight tests

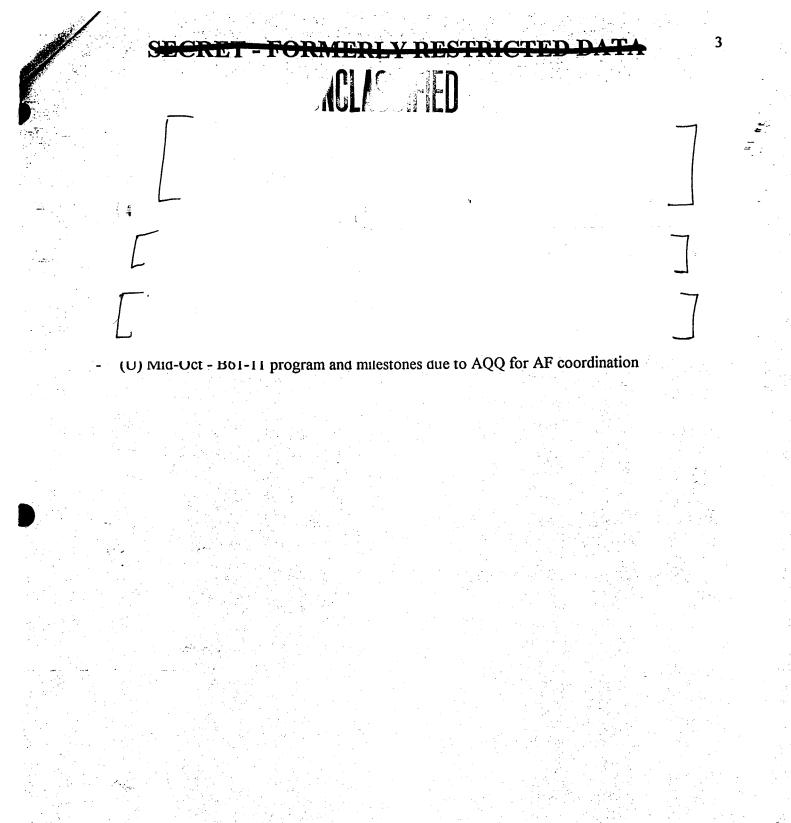
(U) Jul 95 - DOE receives congressional committee letters approving the FY 95 reprogramming action for the B61-11 effort (Tab 6)

(U) Jul 95 - ATSD(AE), as NWC Executive Secretary, requests the AF task the B61 Project Officers Group (POG) to implement the project and return in 90 days with program status and milestones -- briefing scheduled for 15 Nov 95 (Tab 7)

(2) Jul 95 - SAF/AQQ tasks B61 Project Officers Group (POG) to initiate development effort for a modified B61-7, to be called the B61-11 (Tab 8): the Lead Project Officer to brief NWCSSC on program schedule with milestones in 90 days (scheduled for 15 Nov) to obtain final go ahead

(U) The major issue is limiting impact to the B-2 program









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