



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 18, 1995

COPY

Dr. Harold P. Smith, Jr.
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
(Atomic Energy)
The Pentagon, Room 3C125
Washington, D.C. 20301-3050

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

Dear Dr. Smith:

I have received your letter of November 21, 1995, requesting an acceleration of the schedule for replacing the B53 gravity bomb with a modified B61-7. The Department of Energy will exert its best effort to produce the conversion kits as soon as possible. Unresolved technical issues, such as performance under combined lateral and axial accelerations and the scarcity of test data, prevent assuring these efforts will meet your requested schedule.

We are limiting our development to the full steel case option (Option 2). We anticipate this option will be validated by the safe separation analysis to be released later this month. We will provide you with a complete program schedule by April 1996.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 202-586-4879 or have your staff contact Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Seitz
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Military Applications and
Stockpile Support
Defense Programs

cc:
V. Reis, DP-1



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

COPY