

Review of Peter Kuran's excellent "Neutron Bomb Movie".

<https://twitter.com/Nukegate/status/1707883518288708005>

Below is a brief clip for review purposes from a longer newsreel of President Eisenhower, enthusiastically promoting the 96% clean fusion Poplar nuclear test (detonated 12 July 1958). On 30 October 1962, Kennedy tested 99.9% clean Housatonic (a 10 kt boosted Kinglet primary which isentropically compressed a 100% clean 9.96 megaton Ripple II spherical secondary stage).



Kuran unfortunately doesn't approach the subject either from the design of clean weapons, or even from the standpoint that the Ukraine invasion could have been deterred by credible tactical nuclear weapons if USSR funded "World Peace Council" anti-neutron bomb propaganda hadn't convinced Colin Powell and Bush Senior to abolish the W79 (and all other dedicated tactical nuclear weapons). On the plus side, he does compile key evidence, albeit in a slightly confusing order.



First 2 mins 33 seconds is depressing. Some rushed clips of nuclear tests (not identified and presumably speeded up in some cases) from 2 min 33 sec. Then Richard Rhodes saying what neutrons are without mentioning quarks or the fact they penetrate because they lack electric charge, unlike alpha particles for instance, at 5 minutes (waste of time).

14 min: Eisenhower newsreel, saying that provided nuclear weapons effects can be confined carefully to suitable military targets (NOT cities), they can be used "like bullets".



15 min 10 sec: quality film from Exercise Desert Rock, Nevada test site, of troops surviving tests in trenches. This could and should have been accompanied by the declassified 1964 Capabilities of Nuclear Weapons TM 23-200 data on the fact trenches allow survival of 22 psi peak overpressure, as well as otherwise lethal heat and radiation if troops keep their

heads down. (That book compiles all the best data from the atmospheric tests of 1945-62. The later EM-1 edition replaces data based curves with computer models!)

20 min 30 sec: Eisenhower says Teller promised him a 100% clean bomb within 4-5 years!
Ha.



24 min 16 sec: excellent film of the 1958 tactical Davy Crockett prototype, the Livermore laboratory's 7.8 ton (not kt!) Humboldt nuclear test on top of a 25 ft tower (this nuclear bomb was smaller in nuclear yield than the biggest WWII conventional Grand Slam bomb!). Poor pigs in target area are stunned by 40,000 rads, but all survive over 2.5 hours.



27 min 14 sec: Samuel T. Cohen, author of the secret RAND Corp neutron bomb report R-347 "Low yield fusion weapons for limited wars" dated 1 June 1959, explains to the camera that after he calculated the neutrons at Nagasaki from the Fat Man bomb (he was in

Los Alamos's "Efficiency group" of the Manhattan project in 1945), and saw similar destruction in the Korean War, he decided to cut out physical destruction of cities with the neutron bomb: "it's immoral to bomb cities!"

38 minutes: Cohen says that Livermore's low yield cleaner bomb designs (Dove and Starling) emitted "essentially 100%" of their 14.1 MeV neutrons without absorption in the bomb, providing just what he needed.

47 min 50 sec: Kuran shows official 1960 US film on sizes and prices involved. The tactical 10 kiloton bomb is 3 ft long, 15" diameter, priced \$350,000, whereas the 200 times more powerful 2 megaton bomb is 10 ft long, 39" diameter, priced \$600,000. LeMay wanted the bigger bomb as a cost-effective first strike strategic deterrent suitable for B-52 bomber delivery, not Cohen's more credible device.

49 min 44 sec: after Cohen presents his secret R-347 RAND study to Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur Radford, Radford is spellbound and says it's precisely what was needed at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, fought from March 13 to May 7, 1954, in VIETNAM. So Livermore got an order from the boss to test Cohen's tactical version of its own "dove of peace" design!

52 min 54 sec: Linus Pauling hysterically lies on TV, claiming falsely as he did for low level fallout (ignorance based LNT "theory" backed by Moscow's World Peace Council): "This is pure poppycock! The neutron bomb is a fraud, a hoax, and nothing more!" Ha. Ha. Ha.



The film shows excellent quality film of the pure fission version, the 22 ton yield (not 22 kt!) tactical weapon (still a neutron bomb of sorts, since at such a yield neutrons predominate over other effects for troops in trenches or tanks!), "Little Feller II", being tested in front of Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Kennedy's adviser General Maxwell Taylor on 7 July 1962, Nevada test site!



ABOVE: Robert Kennedy, JFK's brother (left) and General Maxwell D. Taylor, Kennedy's adviser and proponent of tactical nuclear war as a deterrent to keep Khrushchev at bay.



ABOVE: 22 ton of TNT nuclear yield Little Feller II on stand beside an APC (used as shelter).



ABOVE: Little Feller II's target point, a simulated hilltop Vietcong defensive position, Nevada



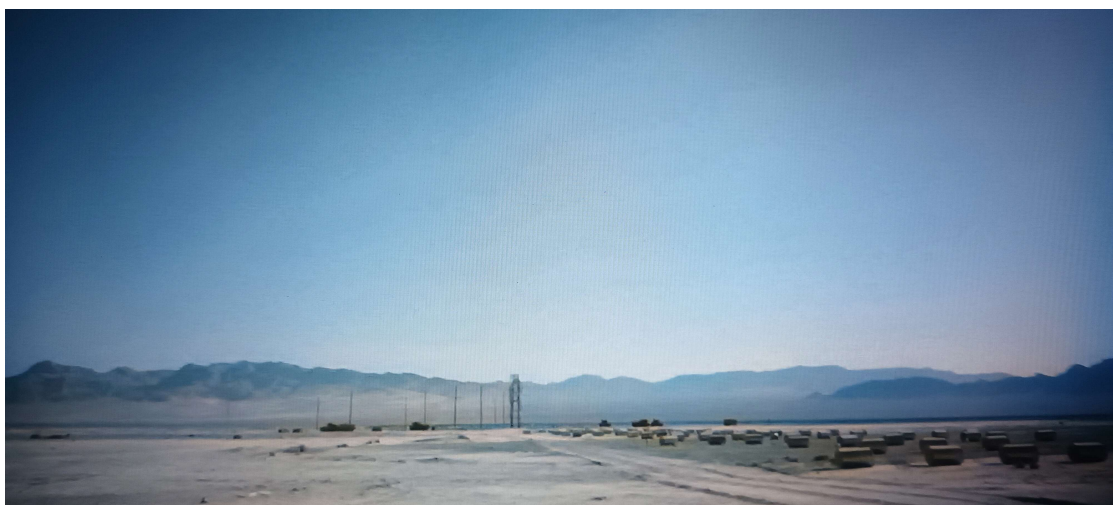
ABOVE: the simulated aggressor's position simply becomes W54 Little Feller II's mushroom.



ABOVE: sweep the fallout off your tank with a broomstick then onward to conquer Moscow.



ABOVE: this little pig received 40,000 rads from the 7.8 ton tactical nuclear test, Humboldt.



ABOVE: Humboldt, a 7.8 ton of TNT nuclear yield Davy Crockett prototype, atop 25 ft tower.

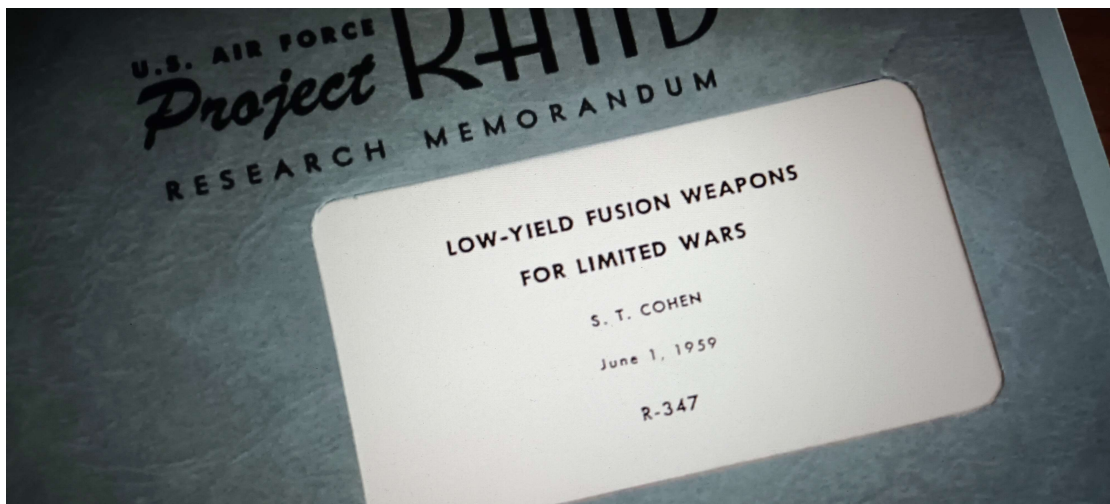
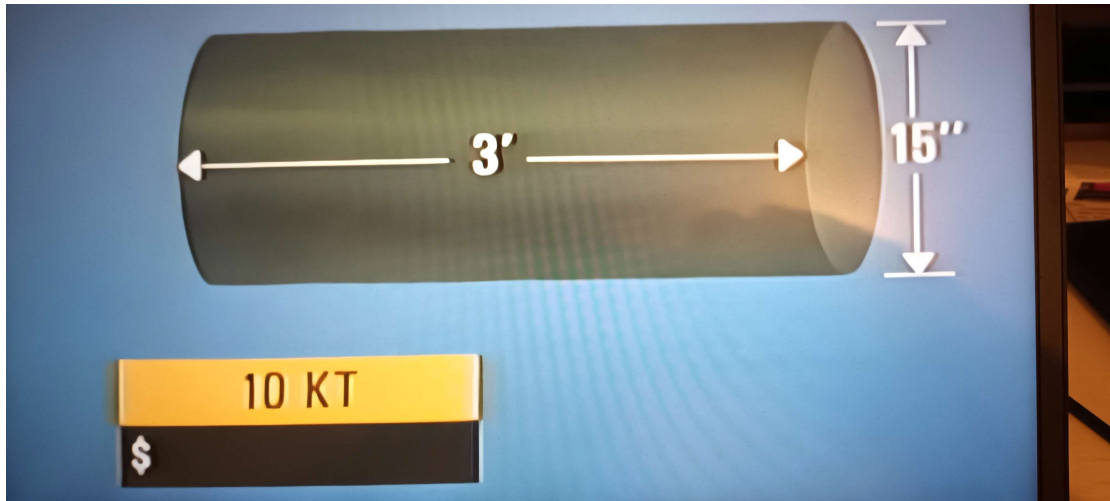


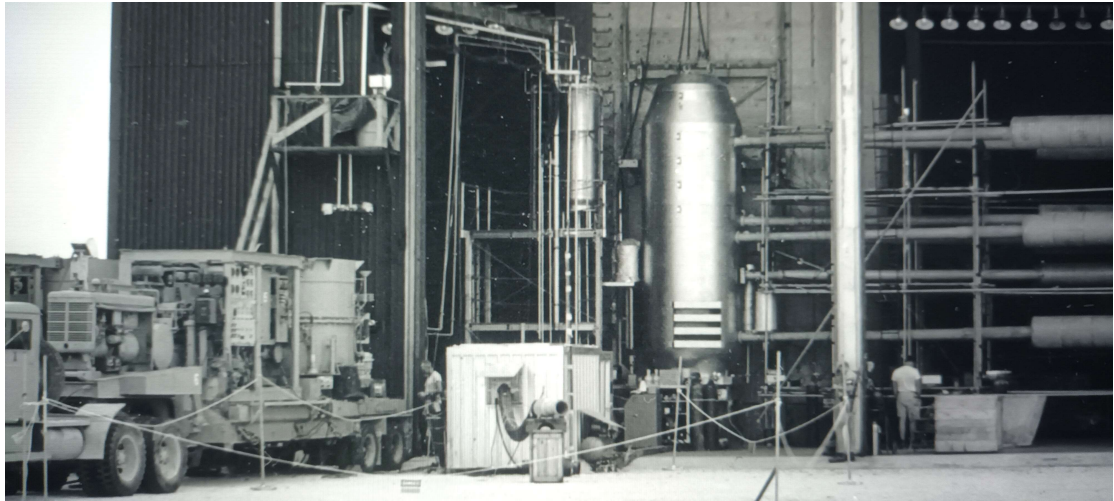
ABOVE RIGHT: pigs protected from heat and blast in metal cans get 40,000 rads radiation.

1 hour 8 min 18 sec: Senator Stuart Symington, who had suppressed stockpiling neutron bombs for 15 years, retired in 1976, paving the way for funding of the enhanced neutron version of the W79 for the Lance tactical missile!

1 hour 11 min 22 sec: naughty Samuel Cohen states the classified yield of the enhanced neutron W79 is 6 kilotons, not the 1.1 kilotons widely claimed. Cohen's figure agrees with the ranges published in Table 8.10 of the classified 1993 Capabilities of Nuclear Weapons Effects Manual 1 (an unclassified extract of this table can be seen at the masthead of this nukegate.org twitter feed!). This "Neutron Bomb Movie" is essential viewing, but could be re-edited, preferably to start off more "controversially" as suggested above, to generate a debate on the future of nuclear deterrence (badly needed right now).







ABOVE: 10.4 megaton 77% fission "dirty" Mike "H-bomb" of 1952 can be replaced by 99.9% clean, far more credible nuclear deterrence of the kind of invasions that trigger world wars (Belgium invasion 1914, Poland invasion 1939, Ukraine 2014 and 2022).