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MESSAGE FOR LEWIS L. STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN, FROM K. D. NICHOLS, GENERAL MANAGER.

YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED CONCERNING ANY ADVICE TO PASS ON TO THE PRESIDENT TO SAY AT HIS PRESS-CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, IN VIEW OF THE NEWS DISPATCHES WHICH ARE QUOTED IN THE BALANCE OF THIS MESSAGE. START OF QUOTATIONS: REP. DURHAM (D-NC), RANKING DEMOCRAT ON THE CONGRESSIONAL ATOMIC COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES QUOTE EXPLODED THIS MONTH QUOTE A THERMONUCLEAR WEAPON MANY TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THE EXPLOSION TEST OF NOVEMBER 1, 1952.

THAT 1952 EXPLOSION ITSELF WAS QUOTE A SUCCESS QUOTE DURHAM TOLD A REPORTER. QUOTE THIS MORE RECENT ONE IS JUST MUCH GREATER QUOTE.

REP. W. STERLING COLE (R-NY), CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE-HOUSE ATOMIC GROUP, HAD ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT (ON A TELEVISION PROGRAM) THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS THE HYDROGEN BOAD-THERMONUCLEAR IS THE SCIENTIFIC ADJECTIVE FOR THIS NEW WEAPON-----AND CAN DELIVER IT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

COLE ALSO SAID IT IS A FAIR ASSUMPTION THAT RUSSIA, TOO, HAS THE H-BOMB.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WAS ASKED TODAY AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE ABOUT COLE'S STATEMENT AND SAID HE WASN'T PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT. HE SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN IT AND COULD NOT RECALL EXACTLY WHAT HAD BEEN SAID PREVIOUSLY IN THIS CONNECTION. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK THE MATTER UP AND REPLY AT NEXT WEEK'S NEWS CONFERENCE.

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FISHHOUTER ADDED HE MOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING NEXT WELK THAT WENT BEYOND WHAT ALREADY HAS BEEN SAID IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS.

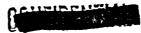
REP. DURHAM TOOK THE STAND THAT THE NEW BOMB QUOTE IS SUCH A HORRIBLE THING, IT'S LEST TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT IT QUOTE. HE ADDED QUOTE THE PROPLE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD SHOULD HE TOLD QUICKLY THE EXTENT OF PROPERTY DAMAGE AND DAMAGE TO LIFE THAT CAN NOW BE EXPECTED FROM THIS TYPE OF WLAPON QUOTE.

DURHAM SAID THE EXPLOSION THIS MONTH WAS IN THE TESTING GROUNDS OF THE PACIFIC COLAN.

METLE AUGUST MINT ON THE RECORD, EVEN HIGHER ESTIMATES OF DESTRUCTIVE POWER MERE ADSIGNED TO THE NUM EXPLOSION BY OTHERS TH & POSITION TO HECH, BUT WHO ASKED NOT TO BE QUOTED BY MARE.

THESE SOURCES SAID A QUOTE WARM UP QUOTE EXPLOSION OF A HYDROGEN DEVICE IN THE PACIFIC MARCH I SURPRISED AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WITH A BLAST AT LEAST 600 TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THE HIROSHIMA ATOMIC BOMB. THEY SAID IT WAS THREE OR FOUR TICKS STRONGLE THAN HAD BEEN EXPLOTED.

THE HIROBHLAG BOLD, FRANCHERSTON, DOCUMENTING, WAS MEASURED AT 20,000 TOES OF THT. THE MARCH I HYDROGEN EXPLOSION WAS MEASURED AT ENTWEEN 12 AND IL MELLICE TOES OF THI, IT WAS SAID. THESE SOURCES ALSO SAID IT WAS FIVE TIMPS CANATER THAN THE MEASURED FORCE OF WHAT WAS BELLEVED TO BE THE FIRST -E-BOLE TEAT, NOV. 1, 1952. OTHER COMPARISONS WITH THE 1952 TESTS VARIED.



Department of Energ Historian's Office ARCHIVES THESE MAO REPORTED THE GOO-TIMES-HIROSHIMA LEFECT, ALSO SAID OF THE MARCH 1 DLAST:

THE BLAST WAS SET OFF FROM A 150-FOOT TOURE AND SHOT A NUCLEAR CLOUD HORE THAN 17 MILES INTO THE AIR.

THE SHOOP MAS FELT AT MAKALDIN ISLAND, 176 MILES MAY.

THERE WAS A FALL-OUT OF NUCLEAR DUST ON AN INHABITED ISLAND 330 HILLS ANAY, BUT IN HARALESS QUANTITIES AT THAT DISTANCE.

AND, IT WAS ADDED, SCHEMTISTS NOW BELIEVE THEY CAN BUILD HYDROGEN WEAPONS WITH AN EXPLOSIVE POWER OF 100 MILLION TONS OF THT, AS COMPARED WITH THE 12-14 HILLION FSTIMATE GIVEN FOR THE MARCH 1 BLAST.

CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES REPORTED THE RECENT HYDROGEN BLAST AT EIKINI LOOSED THERGY EQUAL TO MORE THAN 12,000,000 TONS OF THT-600 TIMES THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE A-BOURS THAT MRECEED HAGASAKE AND HIROSHEAA.

THE EXTLOSION, DOUCHED OFF MARCH 1, WAS FAR MORE POLEAFUL THAN ANTIOTRAYED, THESE SOURCES SAID. THE CHOCK WAS FEED AD FAR ANAL AS HEADALLEN, 176 HILDS FRAM THE THET SITE.

AD DESTRUCTIVE AS WAS THIS TEST, THE PLAST OF A SURIES, OTHERS ARE PLANELD THAT WILL BE EVEN HORE POJEAFUL, THE SOURCES REPORTED. ONE BLAST SET NOW FOR THE LATTER HALF OF APRIL MAY RUN AS HIGH AS \$5,000,000 TO \$0,000,000 TONS, THE SCURCES SAID.

De-referent

THE REPORTS CAME IN THE WALE OF OFFICIAL DISCLOSURE THAT THIS COUNTRY NOW HAS A DELIVERABLE HYDROGEN BOMB AND THE PLANES TO CARRY IT TO ANY TARGET IN THE WORLD. AN UNOFFICIAL SOURCE ADDED THAT CRUDE BUT USABLE H-BOMBS ALREADY ARE BEING STOCHPILED.

ACCORDING TO THE CONGRESSIONAL SQUICES THE TEST AT BIKINI DID NOT INVOLVE AN H-BOYB AS SUCH BUT RATHER A HYDROGEN QUOTE DEVICE QUOTE. ISTIMATES OF ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWER WERE PUT AT FROM 12,000,000 to 11,000,000 TONS OF THE.

THIS WOULD HARD IT MORE THAN THICE THE POHER OF THE WORLD'S FIRST HUDROGEN EXPLOSION, SUT OFF BY THIS COUNTRY AT ENTWETOK NOV. 1, 1952. THIS FIRST BLAST HAS BEEN ESTIMATED UNOFFICIALLY AT AROUND 5,000,000 TONS THT EQUIVALENT.

END MESSAGE



