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Honorable W. Sterling Cole  
Chairman, Joint Committee  
on Atomic Energy  
Congress of the United States  
Washington 25, D. C.

NOV 30 1953

Dear Mr. Cole:

The Commission has recently considered the desirability of imposing censorship of personal communications in connection with the forthcoming testing operations at the Commission's proving grounds at Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls. After consideration of this matter, the Commission has concurred in the recommendation made by the Commander, Joint Task Force Seven that "The policy of self-censorship of personal mail be continued without recourse to official censorship, backed up by an intensified security indoctrination and security education and examination program." As you know censorship has not been imposed at any of the previous testing programs at the proving grounds.

In reaching this decision the Commission has attached considerable importance to the effect a censorship program would have on the morale of personnel assigned to the operation, the obvious difficulties of administering a censorship program, and the fact that such a censorship program would apparently be unique in time of peace.

The Commission relies upon the Commander of Joint Task Force Seven to carry on a security program of such nature as to preclude a repetition of the letter writing incidents which occurred at Operation Ivy. In this regard the Commander of Joint Task Force Seven has issued instructions to all Task Group Commanders to establish a security education and training program in order that each individual assigned to the Task Force will have a clear understanding of his security responsibilities. It is felt that close adherence by Task Force personnel to these regulations will accomplish the security objectives of Joint Task Force Seven.

Sincerely yours,

Lewis L. Strauss  
Chairman

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*Consultation with  
REVIEWED BY J. Diaz 6/21/88*

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