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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Those Listed Below DATE: March 5, 1954

FROM : Morse Salisbury, Director
Division of Information Services for MS

SUBJECT: DRAFT AEC-DOD STATEMENT

SYMBOL: ISP:ST

Attached is a draft statement we propose for consideration for issuance in response to any press inquiries. These would be responded to upon the authorization of the General Manager, given at the time of the initial query.

This should be reviewed by Biology & Medicine and DMA and an agreed upon version submitted to the General Manager for approval prior to further coordination.

Final inter-agency clearance indicated seems to us to be a meeting, called by Chairman Strauss, of C. D. Jackson, Smith (State), Kyes or Seaton (DOD) and Hagerty (White House).

If and when there's a version approved by the foregoing, State should supply copy to U.S. Delegation to the U.N. for filing with the Trusteeship Division of the U.N. about one hour ahead of time AEC or DOD may find it necessary to give it to a newsman.

Attachment:

Addressees:

Dr. John C. Bugher, Director, Division of Biology & Medicine
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields, Director, Division of Military Application

CC: Dr. J. G. Beckerley, Director, Office of Classification

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MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Washington 25, D. C.

STATEMENT BY THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Radiation resulting from the nuclear detonation February 28, 1954, at the AEC's Pacific Proving Ground has necessitated evacuation of the populace from two nearby islands of the Marshall group. Joint Task Force Seven, which is conducting the current test series for the AEC has removed the 100 natives of Rongelap and the 170 of Utirik to Kwajalein.

Some instances of headache and nausea were noted among the Rongelap contingent while enroute to and for a short time after their arrival at Kwajalein. These symptoms abated, however, and diagnosis of radiation illness, if any, is still incomplete. Medical specialists of the Task Force are continuing observation of the health of the group.

(If pressed for report on the radiation readings at these islands, we should say that the findings are still being evaluated but that there is no present indication that anyone received exposure enough to make him seriously ill.)

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CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
OR CHANGED TO .....
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/DMC
[signature] 2/1/85
DATE

[redacted]