[redacted]

400722

15 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN McCONE

THROUGH THE GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE ON THE TRANSFER OF ENIWETOK TO THE DOD

1. Attached is a copy of a memo from Mr. Ohlke to you on this subject. The primary argument appears to center around the working of the last paragraph of the release which, as developed by a working group of the OCB on Friday, reads as follows:

"The Proving Ground, which has been on standby during most of FY 1960 will ('may' or 'could' suggested by DoD) be available, if needed, for any AEC activities."

2. I understand that, in the working group, the AEC representative argued for the word "will" because you had written the word in on the draft of the release you took to the OCB meeting.

3. I recommend you agree to the wording as quoted just below. I have checked this out with Murray Snyder's office and know the DoD will agree with this.

"Eniwetok Proving Ground and its facilities will become part of the Pacific Missile Range on July 1, 1960. The Proving Ground on that date will be transferred from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense.

"Missile tracking facilities in the area will greatly increase the Range's ability to evaluate missile flights made from launching sites on the West Coast of the United States.

"The Proving Ground, which has been on standby during most of FY 1960, could be available for any AEC activities if needed."

4. It is true that what we are talking about here is a press release and not an official agreement. However, certain individuals in the DoD fear AEC insistence on the word "will" signifies that AEC will insist on the right of return to EPG no matter the dislocation to DoD.

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY R.S. DEWEY, DATE: 6/8/94
Without Attachment

CODED	de
CARDED	/
INDEXED	/
FILED	de

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL. 7 Eniwetok Proving Ground
OFFICE ▶
CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
SURNAME ▶
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE
DATE ▶
BY Memorandum DATE 11/3/77
The material contained herein affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.
Form AEC-818 (Rev. 9-53)
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—62761-3

2044

[redacted]

5. I have no doubt that, if we have a real need to go back, we can certainly make an agreement to so do. It is to our great advantage to have the DoD take over the Proving Ground. It will free us of the costs we are paying there. It will provide for a beneficial use of the area. It may also lead to a better long-term upkeep. I believe we should continue to hold to the position outlined in your letter to Mr. Gates of 3 June of which the attached is a copy (Tab B). I believe the wording on the release which I have proposed in paragrah 3 reflects this. I recommend again, therefore, your approval of it.

Not dispatched
By JCR 6/15/60

Alfred D. Starbird
Brigadier General, USA
Director of Military Application

Attachments:
Tab A - Memo dtd 6-13 from Ohlke to Chairman
Tab B - Cy ltr to Gates frm McCone dtd 6-3

Copies: so - Chairman w/attachments
cc - GM
cc - DMA files
cc - reader
cc - locator
cc - Gen. Starbird

Ref: 0-5429 CM

[redacted]

OFFICE ▶	MA:Starbird/vcj					
SURNAME ▶						
DATE ▶	6-15-60					

Form AEC-318 (Rev. 9-53) U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—62761-3

2045