Memo to File: June 10, 1960

400725

The OCB working committee on 6/10 considered a proposed EPG transfer press release. In accordance with instructions received from the General Manager through Mr. Cannon just before the meeting began, the AEC representatives endeavored to keep the press release as it was written when the Chairman took it to the OCB meeting but change the words "would be available" to "will be available" and change the words "become part of" to "be used as part of." Department of Defense representatives said that their target date for publication was June 15. They also indicated that they could not agree to the use of the word "will" until they check back with Department of Defense. State Department representative preferred the use of the word "will" for purposes of public information as being better suited to public scrutiny. The words "instead of being placed in an inactive caretaker status as earlier planned" were stricken because Mr. Ohlke said that the Chairman so indicated on his draft copy of the press release, although Mr. Salisbury and Josephson endeavored to keep these words in the release in that they repeated the EPG [redacted] situation as Mr. McCone described it in his appropriation testimony this spring. DoD representatives also preferred that these words remain in the press release in order to disabuse possible speculation on some big reorganization within the AEC and DoD. DoD representatives said they would have to check this point out again in the Pentagon before they could agree to dropping [redacted] words which more accurately describe the status of EPG prior to transfer. The State Department representative said he didn't care either way, but if it stayed in the text at all, it should be moved up into the following sentence. Mr. Ohlke said that the very words "inactive caretaker status" give a sort of overtone that indicated a weakening of our position. State Department representative emphasized that it was most important that this release avoid any impression that the U.S. is unilateraly taking steps to get out of the test business.

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AUTHORITY: DOE/BA-20
BY R.S. DEWEY, DATE: 6/8/94

After considerable harranguing a whole new version was proposed, substantially without change in content from the original release. All present agreed to check the approval of their principals and to notify Mr. Hersh, OCB, by 5:00 p.m. as to its acceptability.

DoD will develop a question and answer sheet and check it out with State and AEC and furnish copies to USIA, H&W.

State Department said that State is anxious that this be released early next week because of the embarrassment that will develop from a leak. State intends to send the release and the question and answer sheet to Geneva and possibly to Tokyo.

Subsequent to the meeting the General Manager read and concurred in the text of the release as prepared in the meeting and quoted below, though he added that the Chairman probably would not like the fact that the words "will become part of" still remained in the text.

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MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL 7896

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"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 located 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, will be available, if needed, for any AEC activities."

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USAEC, ALOO, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 6

(UNQUOTE) END. REF. MAT:EWJ

(signed)
John R. Hood, Jr.
Colonel, USAF
for

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

Destroyed By Marcha E. Kemp 6/13/60

SO: TT Room
CC: Test Reader
CC: Reader
CC: Locator
CC: DMA Files
CC: Test Pending

5005309

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE ▶	Test	MA:GJKeto	MA:JRHood	MA:Starbird		
SURNAME ▶	Josephson SWJosephson/ejc		[illegible]	[illegible]		
DATE ▶	6/10/60	6/ /60	6/10/60	6/10/60		

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

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