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JUN 8 1960

Dear Mr. Harter:

In an exchange of letters on April 22 and May 16, 1960, between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense, agreement was reached that a readiness check for nuclear test resumption at the Knitvok Proving Ground need no longer be maintained because of the low probability that atmospheric testing will occur in the future.

The Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense have also agreed that the Knitvok Proving Ground need no longer be retained by the Commission as a nuclear weapon test facility. However, the Department of Defense has indicated a continuing requirement for the Knitvok Proving Ground as an addition to the Pacific Missile Range. We intend, therefore, to proceed with negotiation of a written agreement to transfer the custody of the Knitvok Proving Ground from the Commission to the Department of Defense. We would intend to include in this agreement recognition in principle that the Atomic Energy Commission could use the Knitvok Proving Ground for any activity which it might later need to conduct there, if accomplished without cost to the Department of Defense, and without interference with essential activities of the Department of Defense there. An appropriate announcement to public news media is in preparation and will be coordinated with your Department prior to release.

Copies of the correspondence referred to above are enclosed for your information. I am also informing the Secretary of Interior today of this planned transfer of the Knitvok Proving Ground.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold G. Green*

*7*  
When separated from enclosed documents, this document is to be destroyed.

(Insert proper classification)

- SO&CC: Addressee
- CC: GM
- CC: Chairman
- CC: OGC' MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL
- CC: DIS
- CC: Test Reader
- CC: Reader JRM 1 350
- CC: Locator
- CC: JMA Files
- CC: Test Pending

Honorable Christian A. Harter  
Secretary of State

~~SECRET~~

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, the transmission or the revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

DATE: 6/16/60  
BY: [Signature]  
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OFFICE	MA: Starbird	OGC	DIS	AGM	GM
Test					
SURNAME	Shoephson/eje				
DATE	6/2/60	6/3/60	6/3/60	6/6/60	6/9/60

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