~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Brig. Gen. A.D. Starbird, USA
Director, DMA, USAEC, Washington

DATE: MAY 25 1960

FROM: Richard G. Elliott, Director
Office of Information, ALO

Henry H. Vermillion

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF ENIWETOK PROVING GROUND CONTROL

SYMBOL: OI:HGV

1. With transfer of the EPG to the military imminent, it appears that early consideration of a public announcement, or alternatively of language to be used in case of press inquiry, will be required.

2. We believe it likely the transfer will become known publicly fairly soon after it takes place, regardless of the official course of information action. For that reason, we suggest it would be realistic to issue the facts in the form the Commission and DOD feel would be best for national policy.

3. Albuquerque Operations, Holmes & Narver, and probably others concerned, will need to be provided soon with language to be used to inform employees and their families, and in case of public inquiry. If a factual announcement is issued, there will be no problem. If no announcement is to be issued, we ask that we be authorized to use the following language if need develops:

AEC & DoD would issue a joint release b/c

> "Since the 1958 series of weapons tests, Albuquerque Operations through its contractor, Holmes & Narver, Inc., of Los Angeles, has maintained the Eniwetok Proving Ground on a standby basis. Our responsibilities there now will be transferred on July 1, 1960, to the Department of Defense, which has had personnel stationed at Eniwetok continuously since World War II. As a result of the transfer of responsibility, AEC and Holmes & Narver personnel are being withdrawn."

cc: Director, DIS, Washington, Attn: James Cannon
James Reeves, Assistant Manager, OTO
Chief, Los Angeles Branch

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL. 7 EPG

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CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY R.S. DEWEY, DATE: 6/10/94

Reg 206 175/1

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DoC
BY [illegible] DATE 11/31/[illegible]

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THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION 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.

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