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MEMORANDUM

September 25, 1957

TO: General Administrative Distribution List  
OSD, Livermore and Berkeley

FROM: Classification Section  
OSD, Livermore

Re: text of the announcement by the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defense on the 1958 Pacific tests fallow. We have been notified by Washington that a reliable copy of the announcement will be given.

In the absence of a safeguarded disarmament agreement, preparations are under way by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense for a series of nuclear tests to be held in April, 1958, at the Enewetak Proving Ground in the Pacific. The United States repeatedly has stated it will suspend nuclear tests as part of a disarmament agreement. Until such an agreement is attained, continued development of nuclear weapons is essential to the defense of the United States and of the free world.

The forthcoming series will advance the development of weapons for defense against aggression whether air, sea, missile-borne or otherwise mounted. Information on the effects of weapons will be obtained for military and civilian defense use. Test operations will be governed by the declaration made in the Bermuda Communique on August 24, 1956 of the intention of the United States 'to conduct nuclear tests only in such manner as will keep world radiation from rising to more than a small fraction of the levels that might be hazardous'.

An important objective of the tests will be the further development of nuclear weapons with greatly reduced radioactive fallout so that radiation hazard may be restricted to the military target. This principle was first proved in the Pacific Test Series of 1950.

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