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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

MAY 2 1960

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Defense has considered your letter of March 30, 1960, in regard to conditions under which impact of nose cones in the northern portion of the Eniwetok lagoon would be permitted.

The Department of Defense considers it mandatory that these tests be made in order to achieve desired assurances concerning certain aspects of the ATLAS weapon system. Accordingly, the Department of Defense is willing to abide by the conditions proposed in your letter of March 30, 1960. Representatives of the Air Force and the Pacific Missile Range are being directed to assist in any way required to permit accomplishment of these tests. The appropriate announcement of these tests will be coordinated with your office.

It is informally understood that the Eniwetok-Bikini testing area complex is available for transfer from the cognizance of the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense. The Department is currently reviewing the program projected requirements and will inform you as soon as practicable of our position on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Douglas

DEPUTY

Honorable John A. McCone

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

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