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*Al Evans - Hold for release
expected about 12:00 noon today*

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JOINT OFFICE OF TEST INFORMATION

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~~FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE~~
(MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1956)

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POOLED GROUP OF U. S. NEWSMEN
INVITED TO COVER PACIFIC TEST

XOF 135

The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense today announced that plans are being made to permit observation and public reporting by U. S. newsmen on a pool basis of a megaton range nuclear detonation scheduled for about May 1, 1956 at the Commission's Eniwetok Proving Ground in the Pacific.

At the same time, a small number of regional and state civil defense leaders will be selected by the Federal Civil Defense Administration to observe the same detonation as part of that agency's orientation and leadership program.

The total number of newsmen from all media will be limited to 15. Various media groups in Washington are being asked to make the pool selections as follows: The Capitol Press Gallery - one morning newspaper representative and one afternoon newspaper representative; The White House Photographers Association - one photographer for the still picture syndicates and one for the weekly news periodicals and one theatrical newsreel crew consisting of one cameraman and one sound engineer; the Washington Radio and Television Correspondents Association - one radio crew consisting of one newsman and one sound engineer and a television recording crew consisting of one newsman, one cameraman and one sound engineer. The executives of the three news weekly magazines that operate on a pool basis for special White House events are being asked to select one pool representative. Each of the wire services will have one representative.

The planned coverage will give U. S. newsmen the opportunity for reporting on the events associated with a detonation and to see first-hand the operation of the many safety precautions which are taken in the public interest.

(more)

The Commission and the Department of Defense have determined that uncensored public reporting (with the exception of some photography) can be permitted without endangering the security of weapons information.

The pool of newsmen and the FCDA observers will assemble in Hawaii, will be flown to the Eniwetok Proving Ground and berthed on the Mount McKinley (AGC-7) which is fitted out with special communications equipment.

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