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January 26, 1954

RECEIVED
FEB - 3 1954
CENTRAL FILES
GERALD D. MORGAN

*Filed by
W. B. Johnson*

Dear Stub:

I am glad to have your suggestion of January 12 that Members of the Congress, and later, the accredited members of the Washington press corps, be shown the film made at Eniwetok in the autumn of 1952. The version of the film to which you refer is, I understand, the one marked "Official Use Only" which contains no restricted data.

XCF 99

I agree that the showing of this film to Members of the Congress would be desirable in a number of ways. As you suggest, I append a statement for the introduction of the film.

XCF 61
XCF 3

The Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Defense and the Federal Civil Defense Administration are jointly working toward the possible release of an adapted version of this film to the several media of public information some weeks from now. I feel, therefore, that it would be inadvisable to show it to the Washington press corps, for this would be preferential to one segment of the public information field.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

D.E.

The Honorable Sterling Cole
Chairman, Joint Committee
on Atomic Energy
United States Capitol
Washington, D. C.

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bh/rh

XCF 108

*"Operation Ivy" Film
XCF*

"Operation Ivy" -- the first full-scale thermonuclear explosion in history -- took place at the Island of Eniwetok in the autumn of 1952. The test was conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense as a necessary first step in the hydrogen weapon program of the United States. At that time it represented the farthest advance of research and development in nuclear weapons.

This explosion, dwarfing the atomic explosions of World War II, was but a stage in the steady improvement of our nuclear weapons. These improvements will be continued -- in the hope that our weapons will deter war, and in the determination that we shall be able to retaliate immediately, with crushing force, if war should come.

In nuclear explosions, enormous amounts of energy are in an instant released -- and as quickly lost to the service of man. As our atomic weapons steadily improve, the United States will continue to strive patiently and prayerfully to speed the day when this gigantic energy shall become exclusively the servant of peace -- a tireless benefactor bringing greater health, comfort and happiness to all men, women and children on earth.