

O.F.

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FINAL DRAFT
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CENTRAL FILES

XOF 20

CLOSING REMARKS BY GOVERNOR PETERSON
FOR OPERATION IVY FILM

XOF 111-8-1

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What you have just seen was an awesome turning point in history; a development affecting not only the future of humanity but the security of our Nation, the survival of our communities, and the safety of our homes and families.

President Eisenhower was speaking to every American as well as to the United Nations when he declared:

"Let no one think that the expenditure of vast sums for weapons and systems of defense can guarantee absolute safety for the cities and the citizens of any nation. The awful arithmetic of the atomic bomb does not permit of any such easy solution. Even against the most powerful defense, an aggressor in possession of the effective minimum number of bombs for a surprise attack could probably place a sufficient number of his bombs on the chosen targets to cause hideous damage."

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Consequently our national Civil Defense effort must now concern itself with three major factors:

1. Intensified civil defense preparedness to reduce loss of life, property and production in the event of an atomic attack.
2. Greater personal preparations to recover from such an attack.
3. Our moral determination to fight back, and win, if war should come despite our efforts for peace.

In the light of the film you have just seen, I ask you to ponder these concerns in your hearts, and in your consciences, as responsible American citizens.

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Two courses of action must be followed on the long and difficult road to peace:—First, unceasing efforts to reach international agreement on such constructive proposals as that of our President to the United Nations for the constructive use of the atom for the peace and progress of all mankind. In this endeavor, the people of America can help by increased understanding of the grave problems that confront us all.

Second, prudence dictates steadfast preparation by each of us to back up our President by civilian preparedness at home, so that in his quest for peace he may continue to lead from strength, sure in the knowledge that the American people are better prepared to withstand even the most savage of enemy attacks.

This is no simple thing to do. It requires your personal dedication and diligence in civil defense as a way of safeguarding our tomorrows until a just and lasting peace prevails throughout the world. This can and must and will be done by Americans, for America and for free people everywhere.