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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCIENTISTS FROM UN NATIONS TO OBSERVE
REDUCTION OF FALLOUT IN U. S. NUCLEAR WEAPON

Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, today described the general arrangements under which scientists from 14 nations, to be invited through the United Nations, may witness the detonation of a large nuclear weapon and the analysis to be made of the radioactive debris generated thereby. The observation program is presently scheduled for July or early in August as a part of the current test series.

This program is designed to give the scientific observers information and data demonstrating the progress U. S. scientists have made in reducing radioactive fallout from nuclear explosions without revealing important information concerning weapons design, the disclosure of which is forbidden by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

The scientific observers will be assembled at the University of California Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley, California about one week prior to their departure for the forward area. While at Berkeley they will be briefed on the technical and scientific aspects of the program.

Following this period at Berkeley the observers will proceed to Honolulu and from there be airlifted to the Eniwetok Proving Ground. They will be in the Proving Ground about one week prior to the scheduled date of the detonation. This period will be used to familiarize them further with the program. During this time they will inspect and discuss the instrumentation provided by the test organization to be used for determination of the fission and total yield of the test device.

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After the detonation, the scientific observers will proceed to the University of California Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley for a period of about one week for the conclusion of the program.

Dr. E. O. Lawrence, UCRL, Berkeley, will represent the U. S. in dealing with this program. Dr. Gerald W. Johnson, UCRL, Livermore, will be the Technical Director for the project.

The U. S. and foreign news media who will be invited to attend the observation along with the U. N. scientific group, will be afforded the opportunity to be briefed upon the program and to accompany the scientific observers to the extent practicable.