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COLLECTION RG 326, 51-58 Secretary

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APR 13 1956

FOLDER MP 4 A 7, Redwing
Vol. II

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

R.E. O'Brien 11/25/85
REVIEWED BY DATE

By: P.M. Sweetman 6/16/86

Dear General Loper:

Considering developments during and subsequent to Operation CASTLE, the Commission believes that news media representation at one shot in Operation REDWING is desirable to provide opportunity for accurate reporting of events as a means of promoting public comprehension of test objectives, dispelling misrepresentations and offsetting attacks on test programs. The Secretary of Defense agreed that such representation is desirable and his office, in letter of February 29, 1956, expressed the belief that a feasible plan, with appropriate security safeguards, could be arranged. Accordingly, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense staffs jointly have prepared a plan, invited the appropriate media groups to designate pool representatives, and are at present working out the details of a program.

The program visualized consists of observation of the large yield shot scheduled for May 1, 1956 by about fifteen U. S. news media representatives, one U. S. Information Service Representative, and about twenty Federal Civil Defense Administration representatives on the level of Regional and State Directors, supported by about twenty Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defense classification, information and security specialists. The observers would gather in Hawaii at their own expense, proceed as a group by military aircraft to Kwajalein, berth and mess aboard ship at the dock in Kwajalein until called forward by the Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN, proceed on selected island tours, view from ship (or single aircraft) and record on film a megaton yield shot, return via ship (or plane) to Kwajalein, thence return to Hawaii by air.

Federal Civil Defense Administration participation in the program will provide an opportunity for selected state and regional FCDA directors to observe the events associated with a thermonuclear detonation in order that they may be better oriented with respect to civil defense problems and FCDA objectives.

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The program is based on the premise that the special observers involved will not have access to classified information. In keeping with this premise and in order to achieve the objectives of the program, the Commission has determined that the following information may be published without constituting an undue risk to the common defense and security:

- a. The yield of the selected shot is expected to be (and was) several megatons (now Confidential - Restricted Data);
- b. The selected shot is to be (and was) an airburst (now Confidential - Restricted Data);
- c. The code word REDWING when associated with the 1956 test operation (now Confidential - Defense Information); and
- d. Information that the test detonation has taken place (prior to the official AEC-ROD announcement) (now Confidential - Defense Information).

As a basis for funding, it is proposed that the Department of Defense fund for the operating expense of ships and aircraft involved and provide all necessary equipment; Atomic Energy Commission will bear the costs of installing communications equipment and modifications of ships and aircraft incident to such installation.

Sincerely yours,

(Signature)
Acting Chairman

Chairman

Honorable Herbert B. Loper
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee
to the Atomic Energy Commission

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