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Office of International Affairs

November 9, 1954

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Deputy Director of Military Application

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COLLECTION AC 320 202 54

JAPANESE NOTE RE TESTING

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As a basis for furnishing State Department information upon which they may reply to the Japanese note of October 5, 1954, the following is submitted:

The present testing site was selected after thorough consideration of many possibilities. It was selected because it was determined to be the location farthest from populated areas available to the United States Government and where the likelihood of hazard to personnel would be minimized.

Nuclear experimentation is habitually maintained at a minimum. No test is held which does not contribute materially to the defense posture of the United States of America and support its efforts in developing weapons which serve to maintain peace. Any tests which are conducted in the future will, as in the past, be executed on the basis of minimum requirements dictated by defense needs.

In all future tests, knowledge which has been gained from past experiences will be utilized to minimize hazards of all types. This is in accord with normal operating procedures of the Atomic Energy Commission and all U. S. military services.

Concerning notification to the Japanese Government of dates on which future tests will take place, because of security reasons the U. S. Government can do no more than give the Japanese the benefit of information contained in general announcements of test activity. This information will be conveyed at the same time that the American people are informed.

Prior to any future tests, as in the past, a danger area similar in extent to the one established after the March 1, 1954 detonation will be established. As has been the practice in the past, public dissemination of the extent of the danger area will be widespread.

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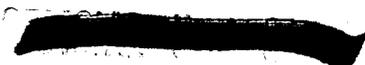
Carl Wilson 4/2/84

By W. Teach 3/17/86

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Insofar as information on concrete precautionary measures is concerned, it would seem that assurances which indicate that all possible safety measures will be adopted should suffice. The Japanese have already been told of intensified sea and air patrols, establishment of a large danger area, and the use of knowledge developed from past tests. An additional factor might be cited, namely that improved weather information in the area concerned plus better forecasting techniques will render fallout prediction more accurate.

The matter of compensation recorded in paragraph 3 of the October 5 note is beyond the cognizance of the Division of Military Application.

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Deputy Director of
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