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 BOX No. 109 (NN3-326-93-007)
 FOLDER 471.6 (4-21-47)
Sandstone Vol. 1

16th 6. Publicity Release on Forthcoming Test

AEC-MLC
 Meeting
 10-8-47

Mr. Lilienthal referred to a conference with Generals Brereton and Hull in which the matter of releasing information on the test program was discussed. General Hull reportedly felt that the minimum amount of information which should be released must include the following:

- a. Site selected
- b. Names of Task Force Commander and two deputies
- c. Name of chief technical director (AEC) and two principal assistants
- d. The fact that materials will begin moving about 1 November

General Brereton asked if the proposed press release pointed out the fact that the program was only a technical routine non-military test. Mr. Lilienthal replied that the latest draft describes the test as a technical one. The Commission has had difficulty in preparing a final draft because everything stated seems to invite questions. The mere presence of important Army and Navy personnel in the program tends to nullify any statement which would describe the test as non-military. Admiral Parsons advised that the draft which he saw yesterday did not list any technical AEC representative, but Mr. Lilienthal stated that a number of drafts had been prepared since that time. In answer to a question from General Groves, Mr. Lilienthal indicated that clearance would be obtained from the State Department before release is made.

10-8-47

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