

MRA-7 - Redwing

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

409497

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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COLLECTION RG 326, 51-58 Secretary
BCX No. 183 (NN3-326-93-010)
FOLDER MRA 7, Redwing Vol. II

Honorable Clinton P. Anderson
Chairman, Joint Committee on
Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Senator Anderson:

It is believed that attendance of news media representatives at one shot of the 1956 nuclear test series is necessary to provide opportunity for accurate reporting of events as a means of promoting public comprehension of test objectives and offsetting attacks on test programs. Attendance of selected civil defense representatives also would be beneficial to our civil defense effort. Accordingly, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense will carry out a News Media/PCDA Observer Program and are at present working out the details.

The program contemplates observation of the large yield shot scheduled for May 1, 1956 by about 15 U. S. news media representatives and about 20 Federal Civil Defense Administration representatives to include selected Regional and State Directors. These would be supported by about 20 AEC and DOD classification, information and security specialists. The observers will gather in Hawaii at their own expense, proceed as a group by military aircraft to Kwajalein, and berth and mess aboard ship at the dock in Kwajalein until called forward by the Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN. They will proceed then on selected island tours, view from ship and record on film a megaton range detonation, return via ship (or plane) to Kwajalein, thence return to Hawaii by air. The program will include carefully planned, unclassified briefings and conducted tours. News media personnel will be permitted to file uncensored copy from the ship which is fitted with adequate communications facilities.

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The News Media/FCDA Observers will not have access to classified information, and the program is being carefully planned to avoid inadvertent disclosure of classified data. It is considered necessary, however, to declassify some details concerning this particular shot. These details include advance notice of the expected date of the detonation, which will appear in the attached public announcement of the program to be issued today. Invitations are being dispatched immediately as outlined in paragraph two of the announcement.

Sincerely yours,

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DISPATCHED

K. E. Fields
General Manager

Attachment:
Public Release