

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Those Listed

DATE: OCT 13 1954

FROM : Richard G. Elliott, Director, Office of Information

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL TEST INFORMATION PLANS

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Attached are drafts of three plans related to the next on-continent test series: Pre-test Education; operational period program; and an FCDA open shot program.

These plans are all preliminary. The first two are in Washington staff coordination prior to presentation to the Commission. The third is entirely tentative, depending on action to be taken on a formal FCDA proposal.

They will give you an idea, however, of what is shaping up and of areas in which Operations Offices may be asked for support. They will also give you something of the picture prior to discussion during the Chicago conference.

Enclosures:

1. Public Education Program
2. Public Information Program for series
3. Public Information Plan for FCDA Observer Project

Addressees:

✓ Director of Information, NY00
 Director of Information, IO0
 Director of Information, OR00
 Director of Information, CO0
 Director of Information, GJ00
 Director of Information, SRC0
 Director of Information, H00

RG 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY

COMMISSION

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 BY R.G. BOGER DATE 12/4/87

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APPENDIX "A"

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ADVANCE
OF SPRING 1955 TEST SERIES IN NEVADA

1. Purpose.

To program public education activity to be conducted nationally and in the Nevada Proving Ground region in advance of operation TEAPOT in order to achieve public acceptance of the need for continental tests and of their accompanying off-site effects.

2. Discussion.

In its report to the Commission February 1, 1954, the Committee to Study Nevada Proving Ground gave detailed attention to the status of public opinion as to on-continent nuclear tests and to the factors creating favorable or adverse public reaction. The Report concluded that the "degree of probable exposure (to fallout) is sufficiently low and sufficiently in agreement with international standards to be made acceptable to the public, if they are simultaneously convinced of the values and economies of Nevada tests; and that the possible and foreseeable emergency situations can be materially assisted by public information action if planned for in detail."

Many of the Report's findings noted improvements in public warning and reporting to be accomplished during the next operational period, which are reflected in a separate program, "Public Information Plan for TEAPOT."

The Report recommended that an intensified program of public education nationally and in the NPG region, be conducted prior to the next Nevada series.

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Developments since UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE have recently been reviewed. Events have intensified the need for a pre-series educational program. Dramatized instances of fallout accompanying CASTLE have undoubtedly increased the American public's fear of test fallout in general, and have perhaps decreased in some degree the public's acceptance of the infallibility of the AEC and its scientist. As an aftermath of CASTLE, there have been several widely-printed and semi-authoritative statements on genetic effects of fallout which can only have intensified a latent public fear which had previously been related to Nevada tests in only isolated instances.

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The program here presented is based almost entirely on the activity recommended by the Committee To Study Nevada Proving Ground, modified slightly in view of new developments and in view of the time period now remaining before TEAPOT starts.

3. People To Be Reached.

The pre-test educational program is intended to reach the following groups:

a. People in Nevada and immediately adjacent states, including Doctors, veterinarians; church, school, university, and civic leaders; public officials; miners, livestockmen, and other commercial interests; news media staffs; and the affected public generally.

b. People elsewhere, including: Commercial interests sensitive to radiation; those who are considered to be national and local interpreters of radiation or of weather, such as non-project laboratories, project-related scientists, U. S. and Air Force weather officers; the Civil Defense organization; the Public Health organization; key news media staffs; and the public generally.

4. Themes For The Program.

a. On-continent nuclear tests are in the national interest. Development will include: Unclassified reporting on tests; contributions to military capability and utilization, to Civil Defense, and to general knowledge such as in biology and medicine; explanation of how advantages of continental testing speed up development.

b. Fundamental facts on radiation and on fallout.

c. Description of the thorough system for protection of the off-site publics.

d. What individuals and local authorities should do in case potential hazards, though small, occur.

e. Description of weather data collection and principles followed in deciding whether the weather is safe for a shot; and authoritative statements that weather is not affected by tests.

5. Basic Educational Materials.

The motion picture, "Atomic Tests in Nevada," which is almost entirely a story of radiation fallout and safeguards, is now in preparation, (following Commission approval at meeting 1023, September 8, 1954) with delivery of prints scheduled for January 1, 1955.

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A Fact Sheet, for professional men and public officials incorporating all of the themes, will have sections on: Need and value of on-continent tests; summary of Nevada tests and their results; blast hazard, controls, and

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past experience; and radiation phenomenon, basic facts on radiation and fallout, hazard to livestock or humans, past experience in Nevada, Test Organization controls, action to be taken by individuals or public officials, and how to use and interpret readings of radiation meters; and a section on weather.

A small popular booklet putting the material above into mass audience form for distribution to the NPG public and stressing their action to reduce exposure to off-site effects.

6. Action To Be Taken.

a. In the Nevada region.

Some action has been taken in this region. Applicable official papers are being distributed to key opinion leaders. Twenty thousand copies of the booklet, "A-B-Cs of Radiation", compiled by the Brookhaven National Laboratory are being distributed to schools in Nevada and adjacent states. Explanations incorporated in local AEC statements, such as announcements of contract letting for towers, include statements as to public safety.

U. S. Public Health Service has appointed a senior officer, Dr. Oliver Placak, to take charge of off-site monitoring. Test Organization personnel and Dr. Placak will personally contact doctors, veterinarians, and public officials in all NPG region communities.

The first showing of "Atomic Tests in Nevada" will be at St. George, Utah (the town where residents were asked to stay under roof after one shot two years ago), in mid-January.

Test officials -- including Dr. Alvin C. Graves -- will visit each NPG region community in January-February. They will, in coordination with Dr. Stafford Warren, visit the staff of NBC-Hollywood and the Pasadena Independent, which have been critical of test radiation effects, and the science writers and other key personnel of all Los Angeles news media (the national outlets for Las Vegas news). They will also visit Salt Lake City, Utah. Civic clubs, radio, press, and TV will be utilized as indicated in the areas visited.

The Basic Fact Sheet will be distributed in January to opinion leaders, medical people, and to news media staffs for background educational purposes, not to stimulate general public discussion.

The popular booklet will be distributed to the public within the immediate NPG region. Schools will be the main outlets.

b. Nationally.

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It is recommended that the Chairman issue a statement on the basic themes and discuss continental testing at a press conference in early January.

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A comprehensive article on Nevada tests and weather by an authority in the field will be distributed to all U. S. Weather Service stations and to all continental USAF weather officers. (This will be included in the basic Fact Sheet).

In addition to the Basic Fact Sheet, a professional paper on radiation and continental test fallout will be prepared by Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, with concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Biology and Medicine, for distribution by the General Manager to the AEC Offices of Operations with the request that it be widely disseminated within laboratories and other contractor organizations.

The Basic Fact Sheet will be distributed: Through FCDA to all local Civil Defense units; through U. S. Public Health Service to all state health officers; and direct by AEC to foundations, laboratories, and industries interested in fallout.

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APPENDIX "B"

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR TEAPOT

A. PURPOSE

1. To establish policies for issuing information publicly, within the bounds of security, on the spring 1955 series of tests conducted at Nevada Proving Ground. These policies are designed to serve the following purposes:

a. To increase public knowledge and understanding of the purpose and need for continental tests;

b. To help protect life and property by obtaining public cooperation with warnings designed to avoid or reduce off-site hazards;

c. To allay unfounded fear of damage or injury that may arise from public misunderstanding of test operations;

d. To provide a procedure for meeting public information requirements of the Test Organization and its components, both civilian and military.

B. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The responsibility for coordinating the information plan for TEAPOT and the major announcements preceding, during and following the operation with the agencies of Government concerned with the climate of international opinion rests with the Atomic Energy Commission. This coordination will be achieved through consultation with the Operations Coordinating Board.

2. The responsibility for public information issuances by the Test Organization on all phases of the operation rests with the Test Manager subject to modifications contained in information plans for an "open" shot, if one is conducted. (A separate information plan for the "open" shot will be presented later for formal Commission action, if an open shot is held.) NYOO

3. The responsibility for public information on national radiation fallout levels and related items rests with the Washington Division of Information Services, AEC.

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C. ORGANIZATION

1. There will be established a Joint Information Office to assure coordination in advance of the issuance of any public information relating to any phase of the test series by all participating agencies and organizations. This office will be the sole coordinating agency for all such information. The Joint Test Information Office will operate under a Director responsible to the Test Manager. (R. G. Elliott, SFOO Information Director, has been designated by the Test Manager.) A Deputy Director has been designated by the Office of Public Information, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense. (has been designated.) FCDA representation will be provided if desired. Both the Director and the Deputy Director are authorized to communicate directly with the Division of Information Services, AEC, and the Office of Public Information, DOD, and with field units of all participating agencies and organizations.

a. The Director of the Joint Test Information Office will inform the Test Manager and Washington Division of Information Services of day-to-day developments in information activities. Information Services will keep the Commission, General Manager and the Divisions of Military Application and Biology and Medicine informed.

2. During pre-operational and post-operational periods, the Director of Information, SFOO, is responsible, under the Manager, SFOO, for handling public information planning and operational activities in accordance with AEC and DOD policy and procedure.

3. Units and organizations participating in the test operations, such as FCDA, may have a direct part in preparation and coordination of their public information material by assigning information representatives to the Joint Information Office. Information personnel stationed at the Nevada Proving Ground, Desert Rock and Indian Springs Air Force Base will furnish support to the Joint Information Office on a continuing basis during operational periods.

4. The Joint Test Information Office will be operational from about February 1, 1955 until one week after completion of the TEAPOT series.

5. The Classification officer of the Test Organization will advise the Joint Information Office Director on matters of classification and declassification with the assistance of the Classification Officer, Field Command, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project.

D. SECURITY OF INFORMATION

1. Only information unclassified or declassified under provisions of the TEAPOT Classification Guide may be issued. The issuance of information includes formal announcements made through the Joint Test Information Office, interviews, "off-the-record" backgrounding or other guidance to uncleared persons in any form by any individual or organization.

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2. The Department or Agency inviting official observers is responsible for providing security guidance to each individual and informing him of the

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limits within which he may discuss publicly his attendance at the test or tests. Security guidance will be included in the briefing of official observers to assure uniformity of such guidance and to emphasize security aspects of the test series.

E. TYPES OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE ISSUED BY JOINT INFORMATION OFFICE

1. Resumption of tests. (Issued as Release No. 568, September 25, 1954.)
2. Announcements as required on unclassified construction activities, contracts, labor recruitment, administrative and non-technical phases of the program.
3. Radiation monitoring program.
4. Details of troop participation, including the assumption of responsibility for troop safety by the Armed Services.
5. Notices in advance of tests to clear the area of stockmen, prospectors, and aircraft; and warnings on possible blast or radiation effects to nearby communities.
6. Explanation of the use of animals in test operations.
7. Explanation of movement of unusual equipment on public highways.
8. Statement by Test Manager prior to each detonation:
 - a. Whether there may or may not be off-site effects, and general or special precautions advised, such as roadblocks for flash.
 - b. Approximate time of scheduled detonation to facilitate precautions by public and assist management controls such as roadblocks.
9. Statement by Test Manager subsequent to each detonation audible or visible off-site including:
 - a. Whether HE or nuclear;
 - b. Whether air drop, tower shot, or other delivery or placement;
 - c. Area of detonation, (Frenchman or Yucca);
 - d. As a measure directly related to public cooperation in avoiding off-site exposure, there will be prompt notification of cancellations or postponements to nearby communities, observers, and travelers;
 - e. Statement on safety of troops and other personnel, when required;
 - f. Announcements as required for operational purposes to prevent public misunderstanding in event of emergencies;

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g. Reports of radiation monitoring units and, where necessary, the height, direction and speed of cloud movement to public health officials of appropriate states and AEC facilities in cloud path;

h. Statement by the Test Manager announcing conclusion of the 1955 spring tests.

F. ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION BEFORE AND AFTER OPERATIONAL PERIOD

1. Information proposed for public issuance by individuals or organizations during pre-operational and post-operational periods will be submitted for review and coordination as follows:

a. Organizations, units, contractors or observers assigned to SFCO or Field Command-AFSWP will route material through normal channels to SFOO or Field Command-AFSWP.

b. Military and civilian units, organizations, and individuals responsible to DOD and detached after test operations will submit through their normal channels to the Office of Public Information, DOD;

c. AEC units and contractors will submit through their normal channels to SFOO (Office of Information) for coordination with the Division of Information Services, AEC, when necessary;

d. AEC and DOD will coordinate issuance of public information material in conformance with existing agreements.

G. VISITS BY CORRESPONDENTS TO NPG AREAS

1. During the operational period the Proving Ground will be closed to correspondents except as otherwise authorized. Camp Mercury, Camp Desert Rock and the Indian Springs Air Force Base will be closed to visitors except for visits and tours authorized by the Test Manager including:

a. After detonations correspondents may be admitted to Camp Desert Rock under controlled conditions carrying out the principle of segregation of uncleared visitors from cleared participants for the purpose of obtaining interviews, photos and movies of troops returned from the test area;

b. Details of arrangements for such visits will be handled by the Director, Joint Test Information Office, in coordination with the Director of Security for the Test Organization.

H. GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

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1. The Joint Test Information Office will provide guidance, and when appropriate, a prepared statement for official observers to use in response to inquiries from correspondents and other uncleared persons.

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I. OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Unclassified and declassified official photographs taken for operational requirements may be made available through the Joint Test Information Office as soon as full field security and information review has been accomplished.

2. Any plans for official motion pictures designed for commercial and/or public release must be approved in advance through the Joint Test Information Office, or, during the pre-operational period, through AEC Division of Information Services.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN
FCDA OBSERVER PROJECT

A. PURPOSE

1. To establish policy, responsibility, organizational relationships, and procedures for controlling and programming information to be released publicly in connection with the FCDA Observer Project of Operation TEAPOT.

B. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The overall responsibility for each shot in the test series rests with the AEC. As a member of the Operations Coordinating Board the AEC Chairman is responsible for managing public reporting of events such as an "open" shot in a way which will contribute to the attainment of U. S. objectives regarding the climate of opinion in the world on nuclear energy matters and the U. S. activities in this field. This responsibility also rests with the Chairman under the Presidential Directive of October 8, 1953. To discharge it the AEC will obtain the judgment of the OCB on this information plan and as needed on emergency actions and announcements which fall outside the scope of the plan.

2. In day-to-day operations within the scope of the plan the FCDA will be responsible for managing the reporting on its phases of the "open" shot; the Joint Test Information Office of the AEC and DOD for managing the reporting on the phases of the shot pertaining to the activities of those two agencies.

C. ORGANIZATION

1. Pre-test. An AEC-DOD-FCDA Programming Group, under an AEC Chairman and including representation from DIS, DMA, and B&M, will program the public information phase of the project and coordinate required national level information activity, such as the issuance of invitations and of public statements.

2. In Nevada:

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a. The Test Manager will exercise control over all information released during the "open" shot through an Information Policy Board, headed by AEC and including senior representatives of FCDA, DOD, and the Test Organization. The Board will designate an executive officer to be "Policy Coordinator." The Board will rule on interpretations or application of the approved program and on all matters not foreseen in it.

b. The Office of Test Information will represent the Test Organization during the special project and specifically will carry on its continuing functions such as public warnings and reports.

c. An FCDA Information Office will provide the public information services required to fulfill FCDA responsibilities for the Observer program, acting wholly in conformance with the approved program or decisions of the Policy Board.

3. FCDA will be responsible for all arrangements and for all costs to the Government arising from the handling and accommodation of observers, except costs which the Test Organization normally would incur.

4. The Test Classification Office, including military and FCDA representation, will advise and assist the Policy Board, the Office of Test Information, and the FCDA Information Office.

D. SECURITY OF INFORMATION

1. Only information unclassified or declassified to meet informational requirements under provisions of the TEAPOT Classification Guide or specifically provided for in the approved program will be issued.

a. Prior to admission to NFG, FCDA will obtain a signed agreement from each uncleared observer certifying that he will be bound by security and safety regulations of the Test Organization.

b. In general the principal of avoiding the mingling of uncleared observers with cleared personnel such as Test Organization observers will be followed.

c. Censorship of copy, photos, recordings, and motion pictures will not be required.

d. Personal and media cameras and binoculars will be permitted in Camp Mercury, in the FCDA firing area sector during pre-shot and post-shot tours, and at News Nob. Personal cameras will not be permitted in military or FCDA field exercise forward positions. If correspondents are permitted in forward positions during the shot, the sponsoring Agency will arrange to control cameras and photography as may be required by the Test Organization specifically in the event of a postponement extending into daylight hours which could expose the contents of the tower cab to observations.

E. BRIEFINGS AND TOURS

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1. FCDA plans Civil Defense and news correspondent briefings in Las Vegas on D minus three, D minus one, and D plus one. It is recommended that the Chairman, AEC, speak at the initial joint session.

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2. The Test Organization will provide briefings on the continental test program, on technical aspects of the shot to be observed, on military support and participation, and on radiation fallout from on-continent tests. The Test Organization will provide a briefing on D minus one concerning weather, possibility of postponement, and other late technical developments.

3. FCDA plans three NPG tours: D minus two, all observers visit Camp Mercury, News Mob, and the FCDA firing area sector; D day, all observe shot from News Mob; and D plus one, all observers visit FCDA firing area sector.

4. There is no proposal for admitting Civil Defense or news correspondent observers to the Control Point.

5. If DOD or FCDA desires to admit uncleared observers or news correspondents to forward field exercise positions during the shot, arrangements must provide for no interference with test operations, assumption of responsibility by the sponsoring Agency, and conformance with Test Organization safety and security regulations.

F. TYPES OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Pre-Test: Announcements of the project and its general nature may be made by any Agency as required, with the approval of the AEC-DOD-FCDA Programming Group. These may include the scheduled hour and date but not data on scheduled yield or placement.

2. During the Project:

a. In addition to announcements authorized in the Information Plan for TEAPOT, the following may be issued by the Test Manager:

- (1) Approximate scheduled yield of the device in advance and confirmation of yield in general terms afterward.
- (2) Scheduled minute of detonation.
- (3) The general reason for any delay or postponement.
- (4) The fact that the detonation will be of an experimental device.

b. Other information on the special project or to meet the public information requirements of participating agencies may be released as programmed, subject to the security and policy controls outlined previously.

3. After the Project:

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After deactivation of the special project organization, issuance in Nevada of reports or other information will be subject to usual Test Organization channels and controls, and will be issued through the Office of Test Information. Issuance elsewhere will be subject to advance coordination with the AEC.

G. OTHER CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

1. The FCDA will invite all observers, but will coordinate its letter of invitation and its list of news media invitees with the AEC-DOD-FCDA Programming Group.

2. Invitations to all observers will stress the probability of postponements, state security and safety regulations governing admission to NPG and the identification or other data required, and specify any responsibility of invitees for costs and for housing. Applications for accreditation from representatives of known subversive media will be rejected.

3. Invitations to news correspondents will state the conditions under which they will be operating.

a. Accreditation:

(1) Stipulations as to citizenship of observers will conform with AEC action on the final FCDA proposal for the special project.

(2) Correspondents must be certified representatives of newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines, wire services, networks, etc. Those to be handled as photographers or other specialists must be so certified by the medium represented. Each must present certification from his managing editor or similar executive.

b. Transportation:

(1) FCDA will be responsible for all transportation of Civil Defense and news media observers and of other Agency representatives assisting with the project.

c. Communications:

(1) Provision of facilities for any instantaneous news reporting from within NPG will be the responsibility of and at the cost of news media. AEC and FCDA will not provide telephone, radio, and teletype facilities from News Mob. FCDA will provide light aircraft transport from Yucca Lake to Las Vegas, on a frequent schedule, of news copy, radio tape, and films, but not of news media personnel.

(2) TV and other news media technical crews will be admitted to NPG in advance to install and test equipment. Their requirements, including those for early admission to various areas during tours, will be programmed in detail in advance and will be subject to Test Organization approval.

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d. Plans for any official motion pictures designed for commercial or other public release must be approved in advance by the Programming Group or by the Information Policy Board.

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e. Arrangements for broadcasts and telecasts will be negotiated only by the designated representative of FCDA, acting in coordination with the Programming Group or the Information Policy Board. Commercial sponsorship of live broadcasts and/or telecasts will be permitted subject to approval of type of sponsorship, commercial copy, placement in sequence, etc.

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