

Mr. H. F. Johnson

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

OFFICIAL OBSERVERS FOR OPERATION REDWING

Note by the Secretary

1. The attached memorandum from the Chairman, MLC, with enclosed letter from Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, is circulated for the information of the Commission by request of the General Manager.

2. The attachment has been referred to the Division of Military Application.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 1814
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
18588

February 17, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR The Chairman, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: Official Observers for Operation REDWING

Reference: Letter for Chief of Naval Operations, from
Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN, subject as
above, dated 20 October 1955.

1. The Chief of Naval Operations forwarded the above reference, which is the proposed official observers policy for Operation REDWING, to the Military Liaison Committee, and recommended that it be forwarded to the Atomic Energy Commission for concurrence or such comments as are desired.

2. In view of an anticipated foreign observers program, the Military Liaison Committee referred this proposal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their review prior to taking formal Committee action. The Joint Chiefs of Staff concurred in the Task Force SEVEN proposal with the exception that the maximum over-all observer participation for REDWING should be increased to 110 in order to provide for the observers from the Permanent Joint Board on Defense. The Deputy Secretary of Defense has approved the increase in the total number of observers to 110 for the above purpose. Paragraph 1(c) of the referenced letter should therefore be amended to read:

"The maximum over-all observer participation for REDWING consist of one hundred ten (110) persons, with an allocation of fifty (50) spaces to the Atomic Energy Commission, fifty (50) to the Department of Defense (including 5 United Kingdom and 5 Canadian), and ten (10) to the Permanent Joint Board on Defense."

3. The Military Liaison Committee concurs in the Joint Task Force SEVEN proposal as thus amended and requests your concurrence or comments.

/s/ Herbert B. Loper
HERBERT B. LOPER
Chairman

1 Incl:
Ref. Ltr.

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that the invited person is not at liberty to designate an alternate observer.

c. The maximum over-all observer participation for REDWING consist of one hundred (100) persons, with an allocation of fifty (50) spaces to the Department of Defense and fifty (50) to the Atomic Energy Commission.

d. The official observer program be limited to five (5) trips to the Pacific Proving Ground. The present schedule provides for megaton detonations roughly two (2) weeks apart and would serve as a workable basis on which to plan for the scheduling and return of flights to and from the Pacific Proving Ground. However, there can be no guarantee that any contingent would witness a large yield shot because of the many imponderables associated with the tests. There is a probability, nevertheless, that a party could witness at least one small detonation during its stay in the proving ground.

e. The maximum number of observers for each of the five (5) trips be twenty (20) with an allocation of ten (10) to the Department of Defense and ten (10) to the Atomic Energy Commission.

f. Aircraft be scheduled to provide for a maximum stay of five (5) days in the Pacific Proving Ground with all observers to return after five (5) days stay in the Pacific Proving Ground whether a detonation has been witnessed or not.

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g. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission monitor the selection of official observers, extend invitations and issue appropriate instructions and guidance to the Department of Defense, and to those selected by the Atomic Energy Commission respectively.

h. The Military Liaison Committee be designated as the intermediary to handle correspondence regarding observers between the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Atomic Energy Commission,

i. That the invitation to each individual include pertinent security instructions as to the classification of the operation, and that each individual be requested to sign a security acknowledgment statement.

j. That the names, titles and official addresses of selected individuals be forwarded by the Chief of Naval Operations to Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN not later than 15 March 1956.

k. Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN will be charged with the issuance of orders, reception, scheduling of military transportation, quartering, messing, and the issuance of necessary administrative instructions to the observers.

l. That no other official observer program be authorized.

m. No representatives of the press or public information service be invited.

2. In formulating these recommendations the fact that the schedule for shots in REDWING will exceed previous ones by a factor of three was the most dynamic feature involved. This factor has necessitated the organization of a considerably larger Task Force than in the past. As a result, a most critical shortage of accommodations will exist in the Pacific Proving Ground. The maximum number of official observers that can be accommodated at any one time is twenty (20). I believe that other interested agencies can obtain desired information through post-operation viewing of documentary films and reference to the history of REDWING which will be prepared. In the past a separate group of individuals loosely described as "project participants", was recognized in the tests. I realize that agencies such as Division of Military Application, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, and the Armed Services have a real need to incorporate certain persons into the program. But in view of the foregoing urgently recommend that no such ancillary category of unorganized personnel be recognized. If it is deemed absolutely necessary that such personnel take part in all or part of the tests the parent organization should work these individuals directly into the Task Groups concerned - within these group's ceilings, and under the group's direct control, in coordination with this headquarters.

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3. If these recommendations are accepted by you I suggest that you inform the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee of them, requesting that he act as the focal point in securing their approval by the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission.

/s/ B. HALL HANLON
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander

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