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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Washington 25, D. C.

No. 859
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(MONDAY, JULY 23, 1956)

STATEMENT BY LEWIS L. STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, AND CHARLES E. WILSON, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The final test shot of the 1956 series at the Atomic Energy Commission's Eniwetok Proving Grounds has been fired. All activities will be concluded in the near future, after which surface and air restrictions within the control area will be removed.

The tests were successful and contributed materially to the security of the United States and the Free World, including further development of methods of defense against attack. As discussed by the President on April 25 and reported by Chairman Strauss on July 19, the tests advanced the development of weapons with reduced fallout and weapons for tactical purposes.

The tests were conducted without radiological hazard outside of the limited hazard area. There were no injuries among the personnel of Joint Task Force Seven attributable to radiological or other effects of the tests.

As announced on March 1, 1956, a post-operation radiological survey of the control area will be conducted. Official notices to airmen and mariners will be published at a later date announcing the removal of restrictions within the area. It is emphasized that the entire control area remains restricted until the official notices are published.

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As has been the case after the conclusion of previous test series, the land areas of Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls, the water areas of their lagoons, and the adjacent ocean areas within three miles to seaward of the atolls and the overlying airspace will remain closed to vessels and aircraft without specific clearance.

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