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By BM LJR Date 6/17/06

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This document consists of 11 pages

Copy No. 1 of 13 Series A

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By Authority of U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

Per Miss Salisbury, 204, 1/2 Date 8-24-52  
Document No. CII-32-1A

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SECURITY INFORMATION

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON IVY TEST SERIES

Report by the Director of Information Services

THE PROBLEM

1. To take appropriate action on the National Security Council memorandum of September 17, "Psychological Exploitation of Certain Thermonuclear Developments."

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

2. The final report to the Psychological Strategy Board by Panel "L" and the substance of the PSB decision thereon were conveyed in AEC 483/18 and 483/19. Under date of September 17, the National Security Council formally transmitted the decision for action by the agencies involved, including the Atomic Energy Commission. The NSC letter is attached as Appendix "A".

3. Before the NSC letter arrived the Director of Information Services had sent an informal instruction to AEC and JTF 132 public information officers to comply with the action which it was known had been taken, and which bore AEC assent through action on the

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draft report of Panel "L".\* Copy of this instruction is attached as Appendix "B". A formal instruction now should be forwarded. A draft letter for this purpose from the General Manager to staff is attached as Appendix "C".

4. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy was supplied with the text of the Panel "L" report and of the NSC letter in order to apprise the members and staff of the Committee of the strict limitations the AEC and the other executive agencies were following on public statements respecting IVY and to acquaint them with the reasons therefor. The letter of transmittal is attached as Appendix "D".

CONCLUSION

5. It is concluded that:

An instruction to the AEC and JTF 132 staff on adherence to the NSC directive should be forwarded.

STAFF JUDGMENTS

6. The Division of Military Application concurs in the conclusion and recommendations. The General Counsel finds no legal objection.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Atomic Energy Commission:

a. Approve management of public information on IVY in accordance with the NSC directive of September 17.

b. Note that the General Manager will instruct the staff to this effect in a communication such as that in Appendix "C".

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\*Secretariat Note: The Commission approved the draft report of Panel "L"; subject to revision, at Meeting 733 on August 13, 1952.

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c. Note that copies of the communication to the staff and of the letter to the JCAE will be provided to the National Security Council as notification of our compliance; and will be provided to the Director of Public Information, Department of Defense, and the Chairman of the Military Liaison Committee so that they may know what action has been taken by the AEC and take parallel action in the Department of Defense if they find it desirable.

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LIST OF ENCLOSURES

APPENDIX "A"

Memorandum dated September 17, 1952 from James S. Lay, Jr. to the Secretary of State, Defense and the Chairman, AEC.

ANNEX "A" TO APPENDIX "A"

Joint Release Department of Defense - Atomic Energy Commission.

ANNEX "B" TO APPENDIX "A"

Statement by the Chairman, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

ANNEX "C" TO APPENDIX "A"

Announcement by the Chairman, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

APPENDIX "B"

Memorandum dated September 17, 1952 from Morse Salisbury, Director of Information Services.

APPENDIX "C"

Draft Memorandum from the General Manager to the Directors of Military Application and Information Services.

APPENDIX "D"

Letter dated September 19, 1952 from H. D. Smyth to Carl T. Durham, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

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APPENDIX "A"

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: Psychological Exploitation of Certain  
Thermonuclear Developments

Based upon agreement by your designated representatives, the Psychological Strategy Board created an Ad Hoc Panel "L" to formulate a policy for the political and psychological exploitation in the United States national interest of thermonuclear developments, both United States and Soviet. The first report of this Panel, dated August 19, 1952, copies of which have previously been distributed to your departments and agencies, was considered by the Psychological Strategy Board on August 28, 1952.

The action of the Psychological Strategy Board consisted of the following decisions:

a. Issue Annex "A" to Appendix "A", as attached hereto, at an early date (this office is advised that this Annex as subsequently made public did not contain the sentence reading "no further statement will be issued prior to the tests").

b. Annex "B", as attached hereto, shall not, repeat not, be issued unless it be decided by the AEC and Defense Representatives that detectable phenomena have become widely known and news stories and comment of a speculative sort are being published. Only in the event that it is decided by the two Representatives that the statement is necessary should the Annex, as attached hereto, be issued.

c. At the conclusion of the tests, issue Annex "C", as attached hereto.

d. There will be no press conference covering the tests.

e. Ad Hoc Panel "L" will be thanked for its work and be dismissed.

f. Other than the action listed in a, b and c above, any psychological exploitation of thermonuclear developments will be the responsibility of the Special Committee of the National Security Council on Atomic Energy.

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The above actions of the Psychological Strategy Board are transmitted herewith for your information as members of the Special Committee of the National Security Council on Atomic Energy and for appropriate action by the departments and agencies concerned. Further action pursuant to f above will be discussed with your designated representatives.

/s/ James S. Lay, Jr.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.  
Executive Secretary

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ANNEX "A" TO APPENDIX "A"

JOINT RELEASE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

The Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission today announced Joint Task Force 132 will conduct a-series-of tests in the autumn months of this year looking toward the development of atomic weapons. The tests will be held at the Commission's Pacific Proving Grounds on Eniwetok Atoll of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. They will be conducted under full security provisions of the Atomic Energy Act. No further statement details-regarding-them will be issued prior to the tests. Only official observers of the United States Government and members of the task force will be present at the tests. The organization of Joint Task Force 132 under the command of Maj. General Percy W. Clarkson was announced February 18, 1952.

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ANNEX "B" TO APPENDIX "A"

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

In recent days Joint Task Force 132, operating for the Department of Defense and the United States Atomic Energy Commission has detonated an experimental device at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. This detonation was one in our 1952 series which, like the 1951 series, looks toward further development of various types of weapons releasing the energy resulting from fission of heavy elements or fusion of light elements. The tests are being conducted under the full security restrictions of the Atomic Energy Act and no further facts on them will be issued.

~~In the presence of threats to the peace of the world and in the absence of effective and enforceable arrangements for the control of armaments, the United States Government must continue its studies looking toward the development of these vast energies for the defense of the free world. At the same time, this Government is pushing with wide and growing success its studies directed toward utilizing these energies for the productive purposes of mankind.~~

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ANNEX "C" TO APPENDIX "A"

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN  
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Joint Task Force 132, operating for the Department of Defense and the United States Atomic Energy Commission has concluded the third series of weapons development tests at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. ~~This series was carried on under the code name IVY.~~ Like the GREENHOUSE series 1951, it was designed to further the development of various types of weapons releasing the energy resulting from the fission of heavy elements and the fusion of light elements. Unlike GREENHOUSE the IVY present series containeds no experiments relating to effects of the detonations on structures, equipment or experimental animals.

Scientific executives for the tests have expressed satisfaction with the results. The leaders and members of the military and civilian components of the Task Force have accomplished a remarkable feat of precision in planning and operations and have the commendation of the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission. ~~General Clarksen, the Commander, and Dr. Graves, the scientific Deputy Commander, will soon issue a public statement commenting in more detail on the contributions of the various components of the Task Force.~~

The tests were conducted under full security restrictions of the Atomic Energy Act and no further facts concerning them will be issued publicly.

In the presence of threats to the peace of the world and in the absence of effective and enforceable arrangements for the control of armaments, the United States Government must continue its studies looking toward the development of these vast energies for the defense of the free world. At the same time, this Government is pushing with wide and growing success its studies directed toward utilizing these energies for the productive purposes of mankind.

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APPENDIX "B"

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

September 17, 1952

TO : Those Listed Below

FROM : Morse Salisbury, Director, Division of Information  
Services, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: PUBLIC REPORTING POLICY FOR IVY

At the recommendation of a panel comprised of representatives of the Departments of State and Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Psychological Strategy Board, the PSB has endorsed a public reporting policy for IVY. This policy provides that no further public statements shall be issued, nor background information be given to correspondents or other uncleared persons concerning the tests until the conclusion of the series, unless unforeseen circumstances make issuance necessary.

So far as can now be foreseen, the only contingency likely to make necessary a public statement before the end of the series, would be some occurrence of detectable phenomena or other special circumstance in connection with the Mike shot.

The Department of Defense, through its membership on the PSB has concurred in this policy. The Commission has accepted it. Operating officers will of course be expected to conform to it. In due time the formal documents will be forthcoming from the PSB through the top offices of the DOD and the AEC. In the meantime I am sending this notice of the policy that has been adopted so that we may know of it and not inadvertently deviate from it. Compliance is simple: No public statements in connection with IVY from now on until the conclusion of the tests, unless unusual events or circumstances make public statements necessary. In case such events or circumstances should arise, the public statements proposed should be cleared through AEC, DOD, and possibly State. The Public Information Service, AEC, will act as clearance agent if such events arise.

Addressees:

Chief, Public Information Service, AEC  
Public Information Officer, JTF-132  
Director of Information, Santa Fe Operations Office, AEC

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APPENDIX "C"

DRAFT MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF MILITARY APPLICATION AND  
THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

1. The Commission has received from the National Security Council endorsement of the decision of the Psychological Strategy Board concerning public statements on IVY, and request for our appropriate action in this connection. Copy of the NSC communication is attached.

2. The Commission has approved our acting in accordance with the PSB decisions, and you are requested to take the necessary action for the Atomic Energy Commission, conveying the instructions to the supervisors and the operating officers of Joint Task Force 132, and the Public Information Service and the Santa Fe Operations Office of the AEC.

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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 19, 1952

Dear Mr. Durham:

On September 16 I advised you by telephone that the executive agencies are making no public statements nor giving background information to uncleared correspondents or others on the autumn test series at Eniwetok. This policy I explained is to prevail until after the conclusion of the tests and the public reporting at that time is to be less extensive than on previous tests.

This policy was arrived at for the executive agencies following a Psychological Strategy Board study whose recommendations were endorsed by the National Security Council. I am sending a copy of the PSB study which sets forth the reasons for the policy, and of the NSC directive to the executive agencies clearly setting out the limited public reporting to be done on the test series.

This policy cannot be fully effective unless it is followed by the Joint Committee members and staff as well as by the executive branch agencies. We trust that you and the other members of the Committee will agree that it is in the national interest. So that the members not in Washington may know of it, we will appreciate your conveying its general terms to them and forwarding the Commission's request that they pursue the same course. I regret that the NSC instruction to the executive agencies was not available earlier, and hasten to send it on now that it has become available.

Sincerely yours,

H. D. Smyth  
Acting Chairman

Honorable Carl T. Durham  
Acting Chairman  
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
Congress of the United States

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