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AEC 141/40

COPY NO. 22

July 1, 1960

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

ACQUISITION OF ENIWETOK PROVING GROUND BY DOD

Note by the Secretary

The attached exchange letters with the Department of Defense is circulated for the information of the Commission. The letter of June 27, 1960, has been referred to the Division of Military Application.

W. B. McCool
Secretary

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

H. L. Hoppe 10/9/85
REVIEWED BY DATE

Carl Wilson 11/20/85

By: W. Trench 3/2/87

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ENCLOSURE I

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1960

Dear Mr. McCone:

With reference to your letter of June 3, 1960, I have requested the Secretary of the Navy to assist in the formulation of a written agreement between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense, which will provide for the inter-departmental transfer of the Eniwetok Proving Ground, its facilities and equipment. These facilities are interpreted to include Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls but not the outlying weather islands.

We recognize the national need to include in the agreement recognition in principle that the Atomic Energy Commission could use the Eniwetok Proving Ground for any activities which it might later need to conduct there, if it is accomplished without cost to the Department of Defense and without interference to our essential activities there.

Sincerely,

/s/

James H. Douglas
Deputy

Honorable John A. McCone
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

ENCLOSURE II

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 3, 1960

Dear Mr. Gates:

I refer to Mr. Douglas' letter of May 16, 1960*, in which he agreed that there is no longer a need to retain the Eniwetok Proving Ground as a nuclear test facility, and stated a DOD requirement for the area as an addition to the Pacific Missile Range.

Contact is already established between the Pacific Missile Range and the Albuquerque Operations Office of the Atomic Energy Commission for the purpose of preparing a plan for the orderly turnover of facilities and equipment to the DOD. Also, I concur in your plan to have the Pacific Missile Range negotiate with Holmes and Narver to operate the facility for the Department of Defense.

I have instructed the Director of Military Application to undertake with such representative DOD agency as you may designate, the formulation of a written agreement between the AEC and the DOD which will provide for the interdepartmental transfer of the EPG, its facilities and equipment. We would intend to include in the agreement recognition in principle that the AEC could use the EPG for any activity which it might later need to conduct there if it is accomplished without cost to the DOD, and without interference with your essential activities there.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John A. McCone

John A. McCone
Chairman

Honorable Thomas S. Gates
Secretary of Defense

Secretariat Note: Circulated as AEC 141/38