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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 (THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1956)

STATEMENT BY LEWIS L. STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN,  
 U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Following my return from our Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Marshall Islands, I have reported to the President on the results of the current weapons tests which are now nearing completion.

As a result of this series we have gained confirmation of important objectives stated by the President on April 25 just prior to the beginning of the tests. At his news conference on that date the President discussed our nuclear testing program, aimed at the development of a variety of weapons calculated to meet a wide range of military usage including defense against air attack. He noted that there was also the objective of making weapons with reduced fallout.

Our tests to date have demonstrated that real progress has been made with respect to these objectives, including achievement of maximum effect in the immediate area of a target with minimum widespread fallout hazard.

It has been confirmed that there are many factors, including operational ones, which do make it possible to localize to an extent not heretofore appreciated, the fallout effect of nuclear explosions.

Thus the current series of tests has produced much of importance not only from a military point of view but from a humanitarian aspect.

We are convinced that mass hazard from fallout is not a necessary complement to the use of large nuclear weapons.

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