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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN MCCONE
COMMISSIONER GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER WILSON
COMMISSIONER OLSON

THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: U. S. AIR FORCE MISSILE FIRINGS INTO THE ENWETOK
PROVING GROUND (U)

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Reference is made to Chairman McCone's recent questions relative to the use of Eniwetok Proving Ground for certain missile tests.

On March 30, 1960, at a Commission meeting, approval, with certain stipulations, was granted for the use of Eniwetok Proving Ground as a target area for a proposed Strategic Air Command exercise. This exercise, identified as "Hotpoint", was planned as a series of Atlas missile firings by the U. S. Air Force designed to check out the complete missile and warhead functioning (less nuclear components) in actual flights at the missile design range of 3300 to 5500 nautical miles. Originally, 3 Hotpoint firings were planned, with launchings at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and Eniwetok Proving Ground as the impact area.

To date, there have been 3 Hotpoint test firings, all since EPG was released to the Department of Defense on July 1, 1960. Atlas missiles with W-49 warheads without nuclear components but containing ~~DELETED~~ TNT equivalent of high explosive were utilized. Following are the test results:

1. July 22, 1960 - erratic, destroyed in flight
2. September 12, 1960 - about 480 nautical miles short
3. September 29, 1960 - about 1000-1200 nautical miles short due to failure of the booster to separate

7 E P G

DOD Letter, 94-11-0312, undated

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date for Mr. McMillan*

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEW DATE: 6/8/79
2ND REVIEW DATE: 7/17/84
NAME: M. Williams
AUTHORITY: ADD
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AUTHORITY: DOE EACD 200	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: R. B. Schmidt	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW DATE:	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
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NAME:	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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94-11-0312

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Failure to achieve success in the first 3 firings has resulted in a temporary curtailment of the program while an intensive review of missile reliability is being conducted. It is believed that additional firings will be made once it has been determined that there is a reasonable possibility of obtaining the desired results. Personnel of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters, U. S. Air Force, who furnished this information, expressed the opinion that the Air Force will have a continuing requirement for the use of Eniwetok. As new missile and warhead systems are developed, it will be necessary to check the functioning and reliability of the systems under actual flight conditions (no nuclear components). Eniwetok Proving Ground appears to be the best available site for the conduct of tests of this nature.

Alfred D. Starbird
 Major General, USA
 Director of Military Application

- 1A: Chairman
 - 2A: Graham
 - 3A: Wilson
 - 4A: Olson
 - 5A: GM
 - 6A: Test Reader
 - 7A: Reader
 - 8A: Locator
 - 9A: DMA Files
 - 10A: Test Pending
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DATE	12/19/60	12/ /60	12/ /60	12/20/60