

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

407742

April 2, 1956

Dear Jim:

In close coordination with the Department of Defense we are proceeding with a program for public reporting on a pooled basis (with the exception of the wire services) of the first detonation in the upcoming nuclear test series at the Eniwetok Proving Ground which is scheduled for about May 1, 1956. x

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The media allocations for this occasion are as follows: one each from the wire services; one pool representative for morning newspapers and one for afternoon papers; one photographer for the still picture syndicates and one for weekly news periodicals; a television recording crew consisting of a newsman, cameraman and sound engineer; a theatrical newsreel crew consisting of a cameraman and sound engineer, a radio newsman and engineer, and one pool newsman from the three weekly news magazines whose representatives at the White House operate as a pool for special events.

This makes a total of 15 news representatives. We are inviting the United States Information Agency to send one representative. About 20 civil defense observers also will make the trip. They are to be selected by the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

Honolulu will be the point of assembly and disembarkation. The newsmen will defray the cost of transportation to Honolulu and return and the expenses for meals for the duration of the observer program.

In behalf of the Department of Defense and the Commission, I am issuing invitations to the appropriate Washington media organizations (specimen copy attached) and requesting their assistance in selecting pool representatives. If they decline this task, we will select by lot from the applications on file by April 6.

The organizations being asked to make the pool selections are: The Capitol Press Gallery (the two newspaper representatives); the Washington Radio and Television Correspondents Association (the radio and television representatives); and the White House Photographers Association (the still photographers and theatrical newsreel representatives). We are asking the Washington bureau chiefs of Time and Newsweek and the managing editor of U.S. News and World Report to select the one representative for the weekly news magazines.

Mr. James C. Hagerty

-2-

April 2, 1956

We are further requesting that an alternate be named for each news representative so that emergency measures may be avoided in case unforeseeable developments prevent the original nominee from making the trip.

We have already in operation a provisional Joint AEC-DOD Information Office which will provide adequate service to the newsmen and take all necessary precautions to protect restricted data and defense information.

There will be no censorship of printed copy or radio broadcasts. Limitations on photography will be held to the minimum consistent with security of information. The newsmen will be berthed aboard the U.S.S. Mount McKinley while at the Proving Ground and kept segregated from cleared personnel to the extent practicable.

Unclassified background material is being prepared and briefings scheduled through which we hope to give the newsmen as complete information as possible on the necessity for continuing nuclear weapons tests and on details of the many health and safety precautions taken in the public interest.

I am sure that you share our hope that this project will give the people of America and other nations an opportunity to benefit from the newsmen's objective reporting of the events associated with a high yield nuclear device and strengthen public support in the United States for the national defense program.

Sincerely yours,



Chairman

XDF 61

Mr. James C. Hagerty
Secretary to the President (Press)
The White House