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At first-hand to these newsmen and to the public in general by this and many other means, this Government has supplied detailed information about the conduct of the U. S. tests — information about the careful scheduling of detonations at optimum times for the safest weather conditions, the limiting of test activities to a specified warning area, the continuous surveillance of this area to protect shipping, and the performance of frequent radiological surveys of the surrounding areas.

The recently concluded series at Eniwetok, which began in May, 1956, was announced on January 12, 1956. The location and exact boundaries of the warning area were announced April 20. Conclusion of the series was stated July 23 and the end of need for the warning area announced on August 11.

The United States regards the safety and public health measures that it takes as an essential to properly conducted nuclear tests.

The record of U. S. announcements gives a clear evidence that the Soviet's nuclear weapons testing activity has been on a steadily increasing scale since 1949. Such announcements, prior to today's, were as follows:

1949: September 23  
1951: October 3  
          October 22  
1953: August 20  
          August 31 (one of a series of explosions)  
1954: October 26 (One of a series of explosions)  
1955: August 4  
          September 24 (one of a series of explosions)  
          November 10 (one of a series of explosions)  
          November 23  
1956: March 21  
          April 2 (one of a series of explosions)

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Although there have been but 13 announcements by the U. S. regarding Soviet testing, several have noted a series of detonations and the actual number of Soviet detonations is significantly higher than 13. As indicated in several of the U. S. announcements, this country does not disclose all of the USSR shots of which it has knowledge, but limits itself to statements about explosions of special interest because of their large size, their series character or some other unusual fact. For example, the U. S. stated on November 23, 1955, that the explosion then announced was, "the largest thus far in the USSR, and was in the range of megatons". This was later confirmed by Mr. Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Communist Party, when he stated in Bangalore, India, on November 26, 1955, that this Soviet explosion was of "unprecedented size".

(Note: For convenient reference there is attached a compilation of statements by the U. S. and the USSR on nuclear weapons, including all statements by both countries regarding Soviet weapons testing activities.)

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President Eisenhower released today at the White House a statement by Chairman Lewis L. Strauss of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission announcing the resumption by the Soviets of tests of nuclear weapons. This is the 13th announcement to the world by the United States Government of nuclear explosions by the Soviet Union.

Chairman Strauss' statement is made public in accordance with the President's policy of keeping the American people informed to the fullest practical extent of important developments at home and abroad concerning nuclear weapons.

In releasing this statement, the President said:

"I wish again to emphasize the necessity for effective international control of atomic energy and such measures of adequately safeguarded disarmament as are now feasible. This is a goal which the United States has consistently sought and which has received the support of a large majority of the members of the United Nations."

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*W. A. Sullivan*

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*3/2/55*

SOVIET ATOMIC TESTS



<u>Date</u>	<u>US Statement</u>	<u>USSR Statement</u>
6 Nov 1947	---	<u>MOLOTOV</u> : "The 'secret' of the atom bomb has 'long ceased to exist'".
1 Oct 1948	---	<u>VISHINSKY</u> : "It is a mistake to think there is just one state which has a monopoly over atomic energy and the atomic bomb."
23 Sept 1949	President <u>TRUMAN</u> : "We have evidence that within recent weeks an atomic explosion occurred in the USSR."	
24 Sept 1949		<u>TASS</u> : "Despite the existence in its country of an atomic weapon," the Soviet government would continue to demand "absolute prohibition of the use of atomic weapons."
3 Oct 1951	President <u>TRUMAN</u> : "Another atomic bomb has recently been exploded within the Soviet Union. In spite of Soviet pretensions that their atomic energy program is being directed exclusively toward peaceful purposes, this event confirms again that the Soviet Union is continuing to make atomic weapons."	

(more)



<u>Date</u>	<u>US Statement</u>	<u>USSR Statement</u>
6 Oct 1951		<u>Stalin in Pravda</u> : "Indeed, one of the types of atomic bombs was recently tested in our country. Tests of atomic bombs of different calibers will be conducted in the future as well, in accord with the plan for defense of our country from attack by the Anglo-American aggressive bloc."
22 Oct 1951	<u>President TRUMAN</u> : "Another atomic explosion has occurred within the Soviet Union apparently as a part of a test series. Of course, there may be more such explosions from time to time."	
8 Aug 1953		<u>MALENKOV</u> : Told the Supreme Soviet that the US had no "monopoly" on the hydrogen bomb. "The USA has long since lost the monopoly in the matter of the production of atomic bombs...The government deems it necessary to report to the Supreme Soviet that the US has no monopoly in the production of the hydrogen bomb either."

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8 Aug 1953

In reply to MALENKOV, Chairman STRAUSS says: "We have never assumed that it was beyond the capability of the Russians to produce such a weapon and that is the reason why, more than three years ago, it was decided to press forward with this development for ourselves."

20 Aug 1953

Chairman STRAUSS: "The Soviet Union conducted an atomic test on the morning of August 12. Certain information to this effect came into our hands that night. Subsequent information on the subject indicates that this test involved both fission and thermonuclear reactions."

PRAVDA and IZVESTIA: "One of a variety of hydrogen bombs was exploded for experimental purposes in the Soviet Union within the past few days. Because a powerful thermonuclear reaction was created in the hydrogen bomb, the explosion was of great strength. The tests showed that the power of the hydrogen bomb is many times greater than the power of the atom bomb. It is known that the Soviet Union has had the atomic weapon for several years and has conducted suitable tests."

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<u>Date</u>	<u>US Statement</u>	<u>USSR Statement</u>
31 Aug 1953	<p>AEC issued the following statement: "On Aug 23, 1953, a fission explosion took place in Russian territory." "The explosion was in the same range of energy release as our Nevada tests and would appear to be part of a series. If this proves to be the fact, no further announcements will be made unless intelligence indicates information of greater interest."</p>	
18 Sept 1953		<p>TASS announcement concerning test of new types of atomic bombs in the Soviet Union. In recent weeks in accord with the plan of scientific research work in the field of atomic energy, in the Soviet Union tests have been held of several types of atomic bombs. Tests were successful.</p>
26 Oct 1954	<p><u>Chairman, AEC</u> stated that "there had been a series of detonations of nuclear explosives in Soviet territory. This series</p>	

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began in mid-September and has continued at intervals to the present. Further announcement concerning this series will be made only if some unusual development would appear to warrant it. As is generally the case with nuclear detonations these tests have resulted in some widespread fall-out of radioactive material, but insignificantly in the United States.


4 Aug 1955

AEC announcement:  
"Within the past few days the Soviets have resumed testing of nuclear weapons. This may mean the beginning of a new test series."

24 Sept 1955

Chairman STRAUSS stated that another Soviet nuclear explosion had occurred in recent days, indicating a continuation of their tests of nuclear weapons. Further announcements concerning the Soviet test series will be made only if some information of particular interest develops.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>US Statement</u>	<u>USSR Statement</u>
10 Nov 1955	Chairman <u>STRAUSS</u> announced today that the Soviet Union has, in recent days, conducted a further nuclear test in their 1955 series.	
23 Nov 1955	Chairman <u>STRAUSS</u> announced today that another explosion had taken place in the current Soviet test series. Following the policy of reporting to the American people information of significance concerning Soviet weapons tests, Mr. Strauss said that the explosion was the largest thus far in the USSR and was in the range of megatons. The Russian tests indicate an increasingly intensive effort by the Soviet government to develop their nuclear weapons potential.	
26 Nov 1955		<u>KHRUSHCHEV</u> in Bangalore, India: Announced that the Soviets had just set off a nuclear weapon of "unprecedented might" and involving a new method of explosion. He gave the assurance that

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although this new weapon was intended to "influence the nerves of those who would like to unleash a new war", the Soviets would never be the first to use "this new power".

29 Dec 1955

KHRUSHCHEV before Supreme Soviet recalled the results of the recent Soviet tests of the latest hydrogen bomb - he declared that the power of many million tons of usual explosives and that it can be substantially increased."


21 Jan 1956

Marshall V. T. GHUYKOV (Commander Kiev Military District) stated "USA monopoly of atomic weapons long since liquidated, and Soviet Union has surpassed United States in Hydrogen weapons". Remark made in speech on foreign relations at Ukrainian party congress which closed 21 Jan 56.

~~21 March 1956~~

~~British Foreign Office Announcement: "The Soviet Union has recently embarked on some further nuclear tests."~~

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<u>Date</u>	<u>US Statement</u>	<u>USSR Statement</u>
21 March 1956	Chairman STRAUSS: "Within the past few days the Soviets have exploded another nuclear device." "This is the fifth United States announcement of Soviet nuclear weapon tests in the past eight months."	
2 April 1956	Chairman STRAUSS announced today that "the Soviet Union in recent days has conducted another nuclear test in their current series. This is the sixth United States announcement of Soviet weapons tests in the past eight months."	
13 April 1956		I. G. Kabanov, Minister of Foreign Trade, in Geneva before Economic Commission for Europe: ". . . of course, we do not conceal the fact that in the event we are compelled to use it (atomic energy) for military purposes, we shall not hesitate to use it for military purposes."
23 April 1956		Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet Communist Party Chief, (in London):

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"It remains a fact that we were the first to explode an H-bomb from an airplane. . . . Great stress is being laid now on guided missiles. . . . I am quite sure that we will have the guided missile with an H-bomb warhead which can land anywhere in the world."