

15 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN MCCONE

THROUGH THE GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE ON THE TRANSFER OF ENIWETOK TO THE DOD

1. Attached is a copy of a memo from Mr. Gilks to you on this subject. The primary argument appears to center around the wording of the last paragraph of the release which, as developed by a working group of the OCB on Friday, reads as follows:

"The Proving Ground, which has been on standby during most of FY 1960 will ('may' or 'could' suggested by DoD) be available, if needed, for any AEC activities."

2. I understand that, in the working group, the AEC representative argued for the word "will" because you had written the word in on the draft of the release you took to the OCB meeting.

3. I recommend you agree to the wording as quoted just below. I have checked this out with Murray Snyder's office and know the DoD will agree with this.

"Eniwetok Proving Ground and its facilities will become part of the Pacific Missile Range on July 1, 1960. The Proving Ground on that date will be transferred from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense.

"Missile tracking facilities in the area will greatly increase the Range's ability to evaluate missile flights made from launching sites on the West Coast of the United States.

"The Proving Ground, which has been on standby during most of FY 1960, could be available for any AEC activities if needed."

4. It is true that what we are talking about here is a press release and not an official agreement. However, certain individuals in the DoD fear AEC insistence on the word "will" signifies that AEC will insist on the right of return to EPG no matter the dislocation to DoD.

WITHOUT ATTACHMENT
CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY R.S. DEWEY, DATE: 6/8/94

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CODED	de
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MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL *Eniwetok*

OFFICE ▶ *Proving Ground*

SURNAME ▶

DATE ▶

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF *DoE*

BY *Snyder* DATE *11/3/77*

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Chairman McCone

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5. I have no doubt that, if we have a real need to go back, we can certainly make an agreement to do so. It is to our great advantage to have the DoD take over the Proving Ground. It will free us of the costs we are paying there. It will provide for a beneficial use of the area. It may also lead to a better long-term upkeep. I believe we should continue to hold to the position outlined in your letter to Mr. Gates of 3 June of which the attached is a copy (Tab B). I believe the wording on the release which I have proposed in paragraph 3 reflects this. I recommend again, therefore, your approval of it.

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

*Not Dispatched
By HVR 6/15/60*

Attachments:

- Tab A - Memo dtd 6-13 from Ohike to Chairman
- Tab B - Cy ltr to Gates frm McCone dtd 6-3

- Copies: so - Chairman w/attachments
 cc - GM
 cc - DMA files
 cc - reader
 cc - locator
 cc - Gen. Starbird

Ref: O-5429 CM

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OFFICE ▶	MA: Starbird/vcj				
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