



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE ATOMIC SUPPORT AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

HQDP010032924

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
THE CHIEF, DEFENSE ATOMIC
SUPPORT AGENCY

This document contains information
No. 1 of 8 copies, A

WITHOUT ENCLOSURE
CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

13 OCT 1961

DASATC 960

AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY H. R. SCHMIDT, DATE:

*HR Schmidt 4/8/94
130 → 6/15/94*

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ATOMIC ENERGY)

SUBJECT: Overseas Nuclear Weapons Testing (4)

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 4 October 1961, subject as above, wherein you requested Chief, DASA to comment on the operational and logistic feasibility of using Christmas Island as an overseas site for nuclear weapons testing.

2. A detailed presentation of the operational and logistic characteristics of Christmas Island is presented in Inclosure 1. The bulk of the material contained therein has been extracted from a study prepared by the Pacific Missile Range and a United Kingdom review of facilities at Christmas Island. Both studies were prepared in 1959.

3. The geographic location is such that safety requirements are satisfactorily met. The facilities as reportedly existing provide the basic logistic and operational features considered essential for limited test site operations. There are inherent logistic problems in the utilization of any insular area as a base of operations; however, the problems are not insurmountable.

4. It appears that the adaption of Christmas Island as a U. S. nuclear test site is both operationally and logistically feasible. Christmas Island affords sufficient advantages to make it attractive as a base for sampling operations, balloon shots, and off shore detonations with on shore instrumentation. A report prepared by the Pacific Missile Range in July, 1961, indicates that the NASA is also interested in Christmas Island as a launch site in support of the lunar program.

5. Evaluating the foregoing together with the contents of the inclosure from a military standpoint, I consider the selection of Christmas Island as a nuclear test site second in choice to Eniwetok. Our familiarity with and knowledge of the facilities at Eniwetok take precedence over reports of Christmas Island that are two years old.

COPIED	<i>M</i>
FILED	
INDEXED	
SEARCHED	

*NMB 219-
280*

MRR 7 Test Planning

DOWNGRADED / P R S FOR INFORMATION;
DECLASSIFIED BY 10032924
DATE 10/15/94

~~SECRET~~

DASA 56016

2449

~~SECRET~~

DASATC 960

13 OCT 1961

SUBJECT: Overseas Nuclear Weapons Testing

I understand that the facilities of the UK have been reduced to caretaker status and the present conditions of installations, although expected to be good, remains questionable considering the deterioration rate in tropical areas. It is considered desirable that a survey be conducted to determine adequacy of Christmas Island for support of U.S. overseas test operations.

Robert H. Booth

ROBERT H. BOOTH
Major General, USA
Chief

1 Incl
Brochure, Christmas
Island

NMB 220

~~SECRET~~

2572