

MR A-7 Redwing

copy for Secretariat

Craig

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COLLECTION RG 326, 51-58 Secretary
BOX No. 183 (NN3-326-93-010)
FOLDER MR A 7 Redwing Vol. II

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APR 17 1956

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Dear Senator Anderson:

The Commission, by letter of April 2, 1956, outlined to the Joint Committee a special Observer Program to be executed in connection with the first detonation on the current Operation REDWING nuclear test series scheduled for May 1, 1956.

This Special Observer Program for news media and PCDA is based on the premise that the special observers involved will not have access to classified information. It was considered necessary, however, to declassify some presently classified information in order to achieve the objectives of the program. Accordingly, the Commission has determined that the following information may be published without constituting an undue risk to the common defense and security:

- (1) The approximate date (May 1, 1956) of the first shot of Operation REDWING;
- (2) The yield of this selected shot is expected to be (and was) ~~several~~ megatons;
- (3) The selected shot is to be (and was) an air-burst;
- (4) The code word REDWING when associated with the 1956 test operations;
- (5) Information that this test detonation has taken place (prior to the official AEC-DCD announcement.)

It is noted that declassification of the code word REDWING applies to its use from now on, but that the declassification action contained in the other four items is applicable only to the May 1, 1956, shot.

The amount and type of official information to be made public during the remainder of Operation REDWING which probably will extend into August, will depend in part on the results of the Observer Program and on international developments during the period of Operation REDWING.

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Honorable Clinton P. Anderson

The Commission and the Department of Defense have adopted a flexible information program designed to deal with any foreseeable contingency. This plan provides, as deemed necessary, for the announcement of detonations, stating the yield was in "the kiloton range" or "the megaton range"; for reporting fall-out readings in the Pacific area and in the United States in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service; and for taking such additional informational actions if international repercussions become of such magnitude as to affect the national interest.

The Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, has been requested to include in his regular operational reports additional data to be used in the preparation of more extended announcements than has been the practice of previous test series in the Pacific.

The Commission and the Department of Defense, in coordination with the appropriate agencies involved jointly, will determine the context and timing of all official announcements concerning Operation REDWING.

Sincerely yours,

W. F. Libby
Chairman

Honorable Clinton P. Anderson
Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States