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APR 9 1951

Mr. James S. Lay, Jr.
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lay:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The proper and secure handling of public information on test activities requires close coordination among the several agencies of government concerned. In order to avoid some of the difficulties encountered in connection with Operation SANDSTONE in May 1948, the Commander, JTF-3 (Operation ORIENTHORN) has recommended a detailed plan both for handling inquiries and for making public announcements related to the tests.

A part of this plan was the release of March 26, coordinated through your office. The plan also calls for a joint announcement by the Department of Defense and AEC upon completion of the tests, and sets forth the clearance procedure to be followed in clearing this announcement.

The full public information plan recommended by the Commander JTF-3 has the concurrence of the Military Liaison Committee and the Atomic Energy Commission. Because of their interest, we are also sending copies of this plan to Mr. Trueson in the Department of State, and to the Central Intelligence Agency, through Mr. Kelly of the AEC Division of Intelligence.

For your consideration, we are forwarding herewith the following documents in this matter:

- a. Memorandum for Chief of Staff, USAF, Executive Agent, and the General Manager, AEC, Subject: Public Information Policy and Procedure, Operation ORIENTHORN, dated 28 February 1951, transmitting Staff Study: Public Information Plan, Operation ORIENTHORN.
- b. Memorandum for the Chairman, AEC, dated March 28, 1951, Subject: Public Information Policy and Procedure, Operation ORIENTHORN, from Executive Secretary, AEC.

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WITHOUT ATTACHMENTS/ENCL

*drafted in AEC 155/28
appendix "C"*

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- c. Report to the Atomic Energy Commission by the Directors of the Division of Military Application and Information Services, approved by the Commission April 6, 1951.

Your attention is called to the provision in this plan that all public releases in connection with the tests will be cleared by MLC for the Department of Defense and by AEC, thence coordinated through your office. The Commission would like to have the views of the Council and the President as to the general nature and objectives of this plan, particularly the proposal that the final or completion announcement be made jointly by the Department of Defense and the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Gordon Dean
Chairman

Attachments:

1. As described in par. a above
2. As described in par. b above
3. As described in par. c above

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