

Dear Mr. Walsh:

On behalf of the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission, I am inviting the major media in the United States to participate, on a pooled basis, in the public reporting of a megaton yield nuclear detonation scheduled for about May 1, 1956, at the Commission's Kainetok Proving Ground.

The total number of newsmen and technicians who are being invited to attend is limited to 15. With the exception of the wire services, each of which has been allotted one representative, the coverage will be on a pooled basis.

Honolulu will be the point of assembly and disembarkation. The newsmen will defray the cost of transportation to Honolulu and return and the expenses for meals for the duration of the observer program.

This invitation to you and the other major media is for the purpose of reporting of the events associated with the explosion of a high yield nuclear device. Through the facilities of the world-wide media of the United States, this benefit will extend to the people of all nations.

Through background briefings and tours of some parts of the installations at the Proving Ground, we will try to make it possible for the newsmen to provide the public with a full picture of the complex operation involved in an overseas weapon test and the many safety measures taken in the public interest.

There will be no censorship of printed copy and radio broadcasting. All newsmen and technicians must be United States citizens and, through the procedures of the Office of Public Information, Department of Defense, accredited to the Joint Test Information Office set up by the Department of Defense and the Commission.

There will be one representative each from the Associated Press, the International News Service and the United Press. We are requesting the Press Gallery to designate two correspondents as pool reporters for newspapers. The method of selection is at your discretion but we suggest that one represent the morning papers and the other the afternoon papers.

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Mr. Robert K. Walsh

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To avoid the difficulties entailed by emergencies, we request that an alternate to your principal nominee be named who could serve in event your principal nominee is unable to attend due to unforeseeable developments.

Your attention is directed to the inclosure which explains the immunization requirements for all persons who will be in the observer group.

Due to the short time available, we request that the full names of the representatives and alternates, together with statements of United States citizenship, dates of birth, home and business addresses, and a letter from their respective employers certifying assignment as principal and alternate, be in the hands of the Director, Joint Test Information Office, Room 164, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D.C., by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 6, 1956.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

Mr. Robert K. Walsh, Chairman
The Standing Committee,
House Press Gallery
The Capitol
Washington 25, D.C.

cc: JTF-7
DGD

K. E. Fields, General Manager (via H.S. Traynor)
E. R. Holles, Sp. Asst. to the Chairman
C. Heslep, ISP
R. L. Southwick, Asst. Dir., PIS
S. Thompson, Deputy Dir, DIS
M. Salisbury, Director, DIS

ISP:CH

ISP:RLS

DIS:ST

DIS:MS

K. E. Fields Chairman

3/29/56