

LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
DATED 2 DECEMBER 1947 AND ENCLOSURES

Excellency:

I have the honor, on instructions from my Government, to notify the Security Council that, effective December 1, 1947, Eniwetok Atoll in the trust territory of the Pacific Islands, is pursuant to the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement, closed for security reasons, in order that the United States Government, acting through its Atomic Energy Commission, may conduct necessary experiments relating to nuclear fission. The closed area consists of the entire Eniwetok Atoll, located at approximately 162 degrees 15' East Longitude and 11 degrees 30' North Latitude, and the territorial waters adjacent thereto.

Entry into the closed area shall be in accordance with such regulations as the United States Government may prescribe.

DOE ARCHIVES

The Security Council is further notified that periodic visits provided for in Article 87 (C) of the Charter of the United Nations are suspended in the closed area until further notice, as permitted by Article 13 of the Trusteeship Agreement. With this exception, the provisions of Article 87 of the Charter will continue to apply. With respect to Article 88 of the Charter

From NMB-DC
Encl 1 NMB-C

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY DOE SA-20
BY D. R. GILSON, DATE 2-22-94

DRG

1347

COPY.

S/613
Page 2

the United States Government will, of course, report to the United Nations on the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the trust territory. Full information will be included about the welfare of the people of Eniwetok Atoll who will move to new homes, the sites of which will be selected by them. All possible measures will be taken to ensure that the people of the area will be subject to no danger and to a minimum of inconvenience.

There are attached hereto, for the information of the Security Council, copies of two press releases on this subject issued on December 1, 1947, by the Atomic Energy Commission of the United States.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

WARREN R. AUSTIN

Mr. J. A. L. Hood
President, Security Council
of the United Nations.

NOT RECORDED

1348
8

COPY

ANNEX I

December 1, 1947

COPY OF PRESS RELEASE ON STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PACIFIC EXPERIMENTAL
INSTALLATIONS

The United States Atomic Energy Commission today announced that construction has been started on Eniwetok Atoll for the Pacific Ocean installations announced last summer by the Commission.

In its second semi-annual report to Congress, transmitted July 22, 1947 the Commission stated that it was "establishing proving grounds in the Pacific for routine experiments and tests of atomic weapons."

Construction is being carried out by the armed forces at the request of the Atomic Energy Commission. Lieutenant General J. E. Hull, Commanding General, United States Army, Pacific, is co-ordinating the work of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in this program.

1349

COPY

ANNEX II

December 1, 1947

COPY OF INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS PREPARED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE NATIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT TO
SUPPLEMENT THE STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PACIFIC EXPERIMENTAL
INSTALLATIONS

The purpose of the installations now under construction in the Pacific is to provide a suitable area for the continuing conduct of a wide range of field work to establish by experimentation the indicated results of laboratory studies carried out in facilities of the Atomic Energy Commission. The scientific and technical operations of the proving ground will provide new fundamental data and a broader understanding of the phenomena of nuclear fission which will facilitate advances in peaceful as well as in military applications of atomic energy.

All test operations will be under laboratory control conditions, with full security restrictions as required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946.

The area of the installations will be closed as a safeguarding measure as provided for in the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese Mandated Islands, and the Security Council of the United Nations will be duly notified to this effect.

Eniw-tok Atoll was selected as the site for the proving grounds after the careful consideration of all available Pacific Islands. Bikini is not suitable

1350
10

copy

as the site since it lacks sufficient land surface for the instrumentation necessary to the scientific observations which must be made. Of other possible sites Eniwetok has the fewest inhabitants to be cared for, approximately 145, and, what is very important from a radiological standpoint, it is isolated and there are hundreds of miles of open seas in the direction in which winds might carry radioactive particles.

Construction will be supported through the Hawaiian Islands, Johnston Island and Kwajalein Island.

The permanent transfer elsewhere of the Island people now living on Aonon and Biijiri Islands in Eniwetok Atoll will be necessary. They are not now living in their original ancestral homes but in temporary structures provided for them on the two foregoing Islands to which they were moved by United States Forces during the war in the Pacific, after they had scattered throughout the Atoll to avoid being pressed into labor service by the Japanese and for protection against military operations. The sites for the new homes of the local inhabitants will be selected by them. The inhabitants concerned will be reimbursed for lands utilized and will be given every assistance and care in their move to, and re-establishment at their new location. Measures will be taken to insure that none of the inhabitants of the area are subject to danger; also that those few inhabitants who will move will undergo the minimum of inconvenience.

DOE ARCHIVES

The construction program which is being undertaken by the armed forces for the Commission, will consist of the installation of complete facilities, including housing, utilities, communications, protective structures,

1351

CO. 1

instrumentation circuits, and control and observation posts. Some of the military installations used during the war will be rehabilitated.

DOE ARCHIVES

1352
12