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Dear Mr. Secretary:

In Chairman Lilienthal's absonce today, I am ackno edging for the Commission your letter of April 17 on the sub ject of a public statement concerning Proving Ground Operati

The Commission appreciates your confirmation of th conversation on this subject between you, Mr. D. F. Carpente Mr. Lilienthal and myself on April 15.

The Commission feels, as was then stated, that issuance of a brief statement today will contribute to the best interests of national security.

Most of all, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation of the mutually cooperative relationship, refer to in your letter, which we of course consider to be vital 1 the national interest.

Your own personal understanding and attitude in th case of a specific decision, where a balance was not easy to but where one had to be struck, are most gratifying.

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Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATUMIC ENERG

W. W. Waymack, Commiss on

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Secretary of the Army A Department of National Defense

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