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DISPATCHED  
OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER  
1717 H Street  
Date 4/22 Time 5:00 p.

APR 22 1960

9-10978 message

Dear Mr. Gates:

In Acting Chairman Fieberg's August 29, 1959 letter to Secretary McElroy and in your October 29, 1959 letter to me the AEC and DoD established agreement that the Eniwetok Proving Ground (EPG) activity could be reduced in scope to a 12-month readiness status. That, of course, has since been accomplished.

Because the likelihood of resuming surface nuclear testing at EPG in the future is so small, Chief, DASA, Commander, JTF-7, and the Director of Military Application, AEC, last month appointed a Joint Study Group to reexamine requirements for EPG, and readiness status and functions of JTF-7. The report of that Joint Study Group, short title EPG, prepared on March 31, 1960, concluded, in part, that the EPG should be placed in a caretaker status. I concur in that conclusion and would like to implement it as soon as practicable in order to further reduce AEC costs at EPG.

In the coming months we may find that the AEC programmatic need for the EPG will disappear completely. If the Department of Defense has requirements for retaining Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls, it would be economically advantageous to arrange a non-reimbursable interdepartmental transfer of the plant facilities and the equipment out there before the AEC puts the Proving Ground in caretaker status. Otherwise, when the equipment and supplies now stored at EPG are declared excess, probably several million dollars worth will be disposed of -- equipment which might handily fulfill possible DoD requirements in the EPG.

Therefore, I would appreciate knowing by May 15 of your interest in acquiring the EPG for possible DoD use. Additionally if the DoD has no requirement for the EPG, your concurrence is requested in removing a specified degree of readiness for test resumption there,

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AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20  
BY R.S. DEWEY, DATE: 4/26/10/94

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL 7EP6

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CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

SUBMITTAL AUTHORITY OF 1/31/77  
BY [Signature] DATE 4/27/77

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so that the Commission can begin immediately to dispose of the equipment now stored in EFG and place the plant facilities in caretaker status until complete withdrawal is indicated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John A. McCone

Chairman

Honorable Thomas S. Gates  
Secretary of Defense

- SO&CC: Addressee
- CC: Gen. Mgr.
- 2CC: Chairman
- CC: Budget
- CC: C&S
- CC: General Counsel
- CC: Finance
- CC: Test Reader
- CC: Reader APR 25 1960
- CC: DMA Files
- CC: Locator
- CC: Test Pending

DISPATCHED  
 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER  
 1717 E. Street  
 Date 4/22 Time 5:00p

Mr. Keto  
 Col. Hood [Signature]  
 Budget [Signature]

GENERAL MANAGER

2055

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OFFICE	Test	MA:Starbird	C&S	OGC	Finance	GM
SURNAME	S. Josephson/ejc		[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]
DATE	4/14/60	4/16/60	4/17/60	4/15/60	4/16/60	4/20/60

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