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MEMORANDUM

To: James S. Lay, Jr.
 Executive Secretary
 National Security Council

From: Gordon Dean, Chairman
 U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

Subject: PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ON
 OPERATION GREENHOUSE

copy for: R. B. Snapp, Secretary

Attached for approval of the Special Committee of NSC on Atomic Energy is a proposed press release to be issued by the Commission at the earliest practicable date. The release has been approved by the Commission and the Military Liaison Committee.

This press release is the first step in an overall public information plan worked out by the Commander, Joint Task Force THREE. It is desired to issue the press release before the review and clearance of the total plan are complete. The plan will be forwarded to your office for study by the Special Committee.

Attachment:
as noted

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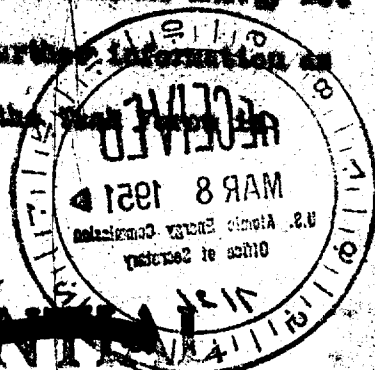
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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The United States Atomic Energy Commission announced today in response to inquiries from the American Institute of Architects that test program at the Commission's Eilatok Proving Ground in the Pacific include extensive provisions for measurement of atomic weapons effects on structures and materials of various kinds.

The Commission has advised the AIA that a major project is being carried out to supplement data already obtained from other atomic blasts, with instrumentation specifically arranged to provide data for the development of design criteria needed by architects. This information will be made available to the Civil Defense Administration. The current test program is being carried out by Joint Task Force 1, commanded by General Ernest S. Souders, USAF, and is made up of personnel of the Armed Services, AEC, other civil agencies of the government, and AEC contractors. In order to assure the safety of vessels and aircraft operating in the central Pacific, only units of the Task Force are permitted within the danger area around Eilatok Atoll.

Full security restrictions as required by the Atomic Energy Act apply to all phases of the test program. No further information as to the composition, movement or operations of the Task Force is authorized for public release at this time.



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