



New Atom Tests Scheduled

Washington, December 30 — The National Security Council has approved certain key plans for the next big test of nuclear weapons.

These experiments will be wholly military, the latest in a long series that has marked this country's steady development of newer and ever more powerful nuclear arms.

The forthcoming firings will have no relation to President Eisenhower's historic proposal for an international uranium pool for peaceful uses.

New Weapons Included

The following details can be reported regarding the next "shoot":

It will take place at Eniwetok, in the South Pacific, early next spring; sometime between March 15—April 15, depending on weather conditions.

The test will be conducted by a Joint Task Force, under direct control of the Defense Department and Atomic Energy Commission. Various new weapons will be tried out, hydrogen as well as atomic. The number may exceed the four detonated at Eniwetok in November 1952; decision on this is still under consideration.

The principal experiment will revolve around an operational H-bomb. None has ever been exploded as yet; previous U.S. and Russian hydrogen tests involved devices and not actual weapons.

It is possible that two H-bombs will be tested; one by air drop and another from a tower. A special crew of Air Force veterans has been training for months for this fateful trial.

A number of foreign representatives may be permitted to witness the Eniwetok firings. The matter is still under discussion in the Pentagon and Atomic Commission. Final decision will be made by the Security Council.

President Eisenhower wants to give Atomic Chairman Lewis Strauss "another hat."

(That's Pentagonese for an official who functions in several roles.)

Larger Council Seen

The President's plan is to make Strauss a full member of the National Security Council, top policy agency of the government. The President, himself, is chairman of this key body.

The proposed new "hat" for Strauss will require congressional action. The 1947 law creating the Security Council will have to be amended to include the former New York banker. The

act limits Council membership to the President, Vice-President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Mutual Security (foreign aid) Director.

President Eisenhower has "informally" added Treasury Secretary George Humphrey as a non-voting member. The Ohioan is held in highest esteem by the President, who consults him frequently on a wide range of policy problems. It's possible the President may also ask Congress to make Humphrey a full Council member.

The decision on Strauss was under consideration for some time. Still under discussion is the question of elevating the Atomic Commission to cabinet status.

The President has asked Budget Director Joseph Dodge to make a study of this. In importance, magnitude, and amount of its expenditures, the Atomic Commission is much bigger than a majority of the major government departments. With atomic development expanding increasingly in the civilian field, some White House advisors feel the time is approaching when AEC should be put on a cabinet footing and brought directly into its councils.

