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DEC 29 1955

ANW 972 006A
By DM LSC Date 7/14/65

Dear Senator Anderson:

To meet requirements of the atomic weapons research and development program, a series of atomic tests will be conducted at the Pacific Proving Ground, commencing May 1, 1956. The operation, designated as RAINIER, has been approved by the Commission and the President. Specific details of the test program will be fixed in the near future. At that time we shall request authority from the President to expand the required special nuclear materials.

As now envisaged, the test series will comprise approximately fifteen shots, with a possibility that additional shots will be required to carry out the objectives of the program. The test series is designed to achieve four objectives vital to our continued progress in the research and development of atomic weapons and in the improvement of atomic defense.

You will be interested in the following aspects of the test series which relate to the matters of radioactive contamination and fall-out. The danger area about the Pacific Proving Ground was temporarily enlarged during Operation CASTLE; it is intended that this larger area or a similar one will be used on Operation RAINIER from the outset. Even though the number of shots on RAINIER is much greater than that on CASTLE (approximately fifteen as against six), the total cumulative yield expected from all shots on RAINIER is approximately half the total cumulative yield obtained on CASTLE.

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Honorable Clinton P. Anderson - 2 -

A public information plan is being prepared to cover all foreseeable contingencies. We intend to make a public announcement of this test series in the near future. A draft of this announcement is being coordinated with other interested agencies. A copy of the announcement will be furnished you when release is to be made.

Sincerely yours,

IS/ W. F. Libby

Acting Chairman

Honorable Clinton P. Anderson
Chairman, Joint Committee on
Atomic Energy

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