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Rev. Clyde L. Barris
United Missionary Church
P. O. Box 786
Burr Oak, Michigan

Dear Rev. Barris:

In view of the responsibilities of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission for the conduct of atomic tests, and the interest of the Division of Biology and Medicine in matters relating to civilian defense, President Eisenhower has referred your letter of April 10, 1953 to this office.

We were pleased to receive your suggestion that ministers of the smaller congregations throughout the United States be allowed to witness an atomic test in order better to aid in the dissemination of the message of civilian defense. Undoubtedly, as your letter suggests, a certain amount of complacency has had to be overcome in organizing for civil defense. The fact that progress has been made and that those attitudes have to some extent been overcome is in no small part due to the far-sightedness of responsible groups such as yours.

The atomic tests in Nevada and in the Pacific are primarily for the purpose of facilitating our weapons development program. However, the Commission fully appreciates the fact that eye-witness accounts of atomic detonations are convincing reminders of the need for alert and informed civilian defense organizations. Accordingly, the AEC has cooperated with the Federal Civil Defense Administration in arranging for observers from state and local civil defense organizations to witness, on two occasions, test detonations and to participate in simulated disaster exercises. But as you can appreciate, security and safety considerations have made it essential that such attendance be kept to a small and manageable number.

We feel that the FCDA is in a much better position, by virtue of their direct responsibility for civil defense, to recognize representative civil groups and to evaluate the need for their witnessing atomic detonations. We would suggest, therefore, that you contact the FCDA. We are certain that Mr. Val Petersen, Administrator, would be pleased to hear from you and would carefully consider your suggestions.

cc: H.L. Goodwin, FCDA (w/cy incom ltr)

cc: Hon Sherman Adams,
(w/cy incom ltr)

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED AND DISPATCHED **MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))

1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED

2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO

4. COORDINATE WITH:

5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: AA Zimmerman, WJG

REVIEWER (ADD): M. K. Adams

NAME: M. K. Adams

DATE: 4/28/84

OFFICE	CIVIL DEFENSE EXEC OFF B&M	DIRECTOR B&M	John C. Palmer, M.D. Conf Com	OGC
SURNAME	<i>W. J. G.</i>	<i>J. C. P.</i>	<i>Sadler</i>	<i>429</i>
DATE	4-24-53	4-25-53	4-27-53	

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