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Those listed below

July 29, 1953

Morse Salisbury, Director Division of Information Services (483)

STATEMENT THAT MIGHT BE ISSUED IF AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES CRITICIZE NPG OPERATIONS

SYMBOL: IS:MS

This is my try at a statement to be held in standby for use in case there is an attack from authoritative sources on our conduct of test operations and on the use at all of the proving grounds.

I haven't circulated this earlier waiting for the results of the studies on animals. However, the Commissioners are leaving on vacation and our instruction from the Chairman is to get this approved by all of them while they are in town so that it may be used quickly if need arises. Could you let me have your comments on this including its declassifiability? Please amend it in any way you think necessary or desirable.

Attachment

## Addresses:

M. W. Boyer, General Manager

Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields, DMA

Dr. J. C. Bugher, B&M

J. G. Beckerley, OC

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

P.R. LAPLANTE 12/3/82

By: W. Teuch 6/5/87

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HOB Food to me.

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Statement that might be issued if authoritative sources criticize
NPG operations.

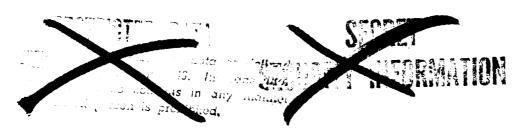
It has been asserted that the operations at the Nevada Proving Ground particularly those in the spring series, 1953, have been adverse to the national interest. The Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense believe, to the contrary, that these operations have well served the national interest.

The four test series of the past 22 years involving \_\_\_\_\_\_ detonations have speeded the weapons development program of this nation by at least one year and possibly two as compared with what would have been possible had these tests been located at the Pacific Proving Ground. The cost in dollars has been less than \_\_\_\_\_ that of carrying on these operations in the Pacific, and the savings in scientific manpower have been invaluable.

The most recent series yielded results of the highest importance.

Five of the detonations advanced the thermomuclear weapons program.

Of the remaining six, all were important to the improvement of standard weapons. For example, one confirmed a theory which is now being applied to increasing the striking power of the fissionable materials in our weapons. Another proved—in the atomic werhead for large caliber artillary projectiles. A third produced knowledge of the effects of





weapons which will lead to more efficient use of both tactical and strategic atomic weapons should the need arise.

In short, enormous gains in defensive power of the free world have come from these tests.

The detonations have produced no substantial hazards to the public health and safety. On the proving ground itself name of the workmen, the scientists, engineers nor the troops have some even close to experiencing radiation sickness or blast injury. For the people off-site there has been no reason to give serious consideration to injury. The record of highest radiation exposures in populated areas outside the proving ground has been published in the AEC's 14th Semiannual Report to Congress. It's analysis shows no hazard to health.

Livestock grazing in the immediate vicinity of the proving ground have suffered some nominal injury from radioactive fall-out. (Here supply the facts exare finally determined.) The livestock herds and flocks affected were in close-in areas where their grazing was a calculated risk on the part of the owners. Nevertheless the AEC has moved to compensate (Here what the facts turn out to be.)

The tests have brought inconvenience to some industries and scientific study enterprises whose products or operations are affected by increase in the background radiation brought on by radioactive fall—out. The film industry, however, with AEC cooperation has learned to live with the



increases in background radiation brought on temporarily by test detonations. There have been no claims made for compensation.

In order to assure protection of the public health and safety, we have taken rigid precautions as to the character of the shots and their timing to coincide with favorable meteorological conditions.

Our view of the net effect of the tests on the national interest is that they have greatly advanced our military strength; and have not in any serious or even significant regard brought harm to persons or property.

## US DOE ARCHIVES 326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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