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AEC 483/34

November 18, 1952

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE DURHAM - OPERATION IVY

Note by the Secretary

The attached letter to Representative Carl T. Durham is circulated for the information of the Commission.

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ROY B. SNAPP
Secretary

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ABSTRACT

LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE DURHAM - OPERATION IVY

1. The Commission believes that the letters from members of the Joint Task Force appearing in several newspapers have violated the provisions of the security regulations of the Task Force and possibly the Atomic Energy Act.
2. AEC is making a full investigation with the help of the Task Force, DOD, and FBI.

~~4-3-95
P. Jones
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This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 14, 1952

IS: Salisbury

Honorable Carl T. Durham
Acting Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Durham:

As our Division of Security orally advised Mr. Frank Cotter of the Joint Committee staff on Monday, November 10, 1952, the Commission believes that the letters from members of the Joint Task Force at Eniwetok which have been published in various newspapers and broadcast by radio have violated the security regulations of the Task Force and possibly the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946.

Since the appearance of the first letter in the Los Angeles Examiner of November 8, we have been following all the lines of investigation available to us through the Task Force, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

So far the identity of one writer whose name was not given in the news dispatch carrying his letter has been established by the Department of the Navy, and a statement obtained from him. Our information at present is that he was briefed on security requirements surrounding the tests, and did not write the letter in ignorance of its hazard to the security of classified information.

The investigations are continuing. We are determined to get to the bottom of any instances which appear to constitute breaches of security. Mr. Cotter is being supplied with findings as they become available. We will, of course, provide the Committee with a summary of the facts revealed and of final actions taken.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Gordon Dean
Chairman