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AEC 483/27

October 24, 1952

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

INFORMATION PLAN FOR OPERATION IVY

Note by the Secretary

1. Attached for the information of the Commission is an information plan for Operation IVY. The Plan has the concurrence of the Division of Military Application and Information Services and the Office of Classification, and the Department of Defense Office of Public Information.

2. The Division of Information Services has advised that the attached plan conforms in all respects with the September 17, 1952 directive of the National Security Council, and has been approved by the staff of JTF-132 and submitted to the Commander, JTF-132 for his approval.

WITH ATTACHMENTS
CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
H.L. Hoppe 11/22/85
REVIEWED BY DATE

ROY B. SNAPP
Secretary

By: P.M. Sweetman 6/11/86
198 January A.D. 4/5/95

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STAFF STUDY
PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN
OPERATION IVY

September 26, 1952

I

THE PROBLEM

1. Determination of policy and procedure for the handling of inquiries and public announcements relative to the IVY test program; specifically:
 - A. The extent of public information releases.
 - B. The procedure for clearance of releases.
 - C. The handling of press inquiries, including guidance to Official Observers and JTF-132 Personnel.

II

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. Public information released on Operations SANDSTONE and GREENHOUSE included:
 - A. Two joint AEC-DOD announcements concerning plans for the tests.
 - B. A joint AEC-DOD announcement of completion of the test series.
 - C. A post-operation press conference by the Task Force Commander, Deputies and AEC-DOD Representatives.
 - D. A publicly releasable film.
3. Agencies concerned in the clearance of public information matter in SANDSTONE and GREENHOUSE were:
 - A. The Atomic Energy Commission.
 - B. The Department of Defense.

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[REDACTED]

4. On 31 January 1950, the President directed the Atomic Energy Commission to proceed with a determination of the feasibility of construction of a so-called H-Bomb in the interest of national security.

5. Two announcements have been released jointly by AEC-DOD concerning Operation IVY:

A. Plans for a new test series and the organization of JTF-132 were announced on 18 February 1952. (Annex "A")

B. Plans for the tests to be held, "in the autumn months of this year" and, "looking toward the development of atomic weapons" were announced on 9 September 1952. (Annex "B")

6. There has been sporadically heavy press speculation on the IVY tests, centering principally upon the possibilities of an "H-Bomb" test.

III

DISCUSSION

7. Preliminary efforts at formulation of a plan for the release of public information for Operation IVY resulted in the early realization that final determination of a plan would be made at a government level higher than that at which the information plans for previous operations were resolved. This conclusion was based upon the belief that the outcome of the thermonuclear experiment will exert greater impact upon U.S. Foreign Relations and Domestic Opinion than the results of previous tests.

8. The National Security Council, acting on a detailed study conducted by an Ad Hoc Panel of the Psychological Strategy Board, adopted the following course for the release of information on Operation IVY:

A. Aside from the two announcements previously issued by AEC-DOD on Operation IVY, no additional information will be released prior to the tests.

B. Following "MIKE" Shot, an announcement may be issued by the Chairman of the AEC if an announcement is deemed necessary as a result of heavy rumor or speculation in the United States, or of foreign powers detecting the test and commenting upon it.

C. Following "KING" Shot an announcement on completion of the test program will be issued by the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

D. There will be no press conference following the operation.

[REDACTED]

9. In the interests of preserving the security of information, steps should be taken to insure that Official Observers and JTF-132 Personnel are apprised of the limits of public reporting on Operation IVY, as prescribed by the NSC.

A. The Security Acknowledgment Statement for Official Observers should include a 'resume' of the information plan, including copies of the two previously-issued announcements. This guidance in public information matters should be delivered to the observer simultaneously with his original notification of selection.

B. Public information guidance to JTF-132 Personnel should be disseminated within the task force prior to completion of the tests, in the following manner:

(1) The general plan for release of information to be disseminated to Task Group Commanders and to Key Officer Personnel on a need-to-know basis.

(2) A letter from the Commander, JTF-132, to all JTF-132 Personnel, containing a guide list of subjects for discussion of the operation outside the task force.

10. A post-series "Hometown" release program for JTF-132 Personnel has been planned on a limited basis for key JTF-132 Headquarters and subordinate Task Group Personnel. Because of a JCS decision to keep JTF-132 activated for the "CASTLE" Series, it appears prudent to keep this program on a limited basis, including only those personnel whose duty with the task force will terminate after completion of the IVY Tests and before the "CASTLE" build-up.

11. The release of photographs or motion pictures of Operation IVY has not been approved and will not be anticipated in IVY information plans.

12. During the period when the JTF-132 Public Information Officer is in the test area, AEC, by agreement with the task force, will appoint an information officer to act for JTF-132 on IVY public information activity in the Washington area.

IV

CONCLUSIONS

13. A. The Atomic Energy Commission, acting on NSC decisions, has indicated that it will:

(1) Only if necessary, issue jointly with DOD, an announcement on the MIKE shot.

(2) Issue a final announcement following "KING" Shot.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(3) Act as agent for the clearance of IVY information matters and materials with DOD, Department of State and other interested agencies.

(4) Apprise CJTF-132 of plans for all announcements on the IVY tests, including texts.

B. Joint Task Force 132 will:

(1) When deemed appropriate as a result of unforeseen circumstances or events, make recommendations to AEC for modification or revision of existing plans for the release of information.

(2) Issue to all JTF-132 Personnel guidance for discussion of Operation IVY outside the Task Force. (Annex "C")

(3) Apprise Key JTF-132 Officers of the general information plan. (Annex "D")

(4) Include in the Security Acknowledgment Statement for Official Observers, a brief resume' of previous releases and NSC plans for test information. (Annex "E")

(5) Conduct a "Hometown" release program on a limited basis after completion of the tests.

ANNEX "A"

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
IMMEDIATE RELEASE Washington 25, D.C.

NO. 180-52

FEBRUARY 18, 1952

LI 5-6700 Ext. 53201
53176

JOINT TASK FORCE 132 TO CONDUCT NEW SERIES
OF TESTS AT ENIWETOK PROVING GROUNDS

The Department of Defense and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission announced today that preparations for a new series of tests at the Commission's Eniwetok Proving Grounds are being carried out by Joint Task Force 132.

Full security restrictions of the Atomic Energy Act apply to preparations for and time of the test.

Joint Task Force 132, composed of personnel of the AEC, Army, Navy and Air Force, is responsible for carrying out the test operations at Eniwetok. Major General Percy W. Clarkson, Deputy Commander, United States Army Forces in the Pacific, is the Commander of the Joint Task Force. Deputy Commanders are: Dr. Alvin C. Graves, Director of the Test Division for the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Deputy for Scientific Matters; Brigadier General Walter W. Wise, U.S. Air Forces, Deputy for Air; and Captain James R. Pahl, U.S. Navy, Deputy for Navy. The Chief of Staff is Brigadier General Arthur B. Walk, U.S. Army, who commanded ground forces during the 1951 test operations at Eniwetok.

General Clarkson served as Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 3 during the 1951 Eniwetok tests. He became Commander of Joint Task Force 132 in July 1951. He is a native of San Antonio, Texas, and was graduated from Texas A and M in 1915 where he majored in Electrical Engineering. General Clarkson entered the Army at the outbreak of World War I. Most of his service in World War II was in the Pacific, where he was Commander of the 33rd Infantry Division, later Commander of the X Corps and also served as Deputy Chief of Staff to General MacArthur.

At Eniwetok, construction, maintenance and improvement of facilities are performed by Holmes and Narver, Los Angeles engineering and construction firm, under a contract with the Atomic Energy Commission.

END

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

REVIEWED BY *CARL Wilson* DATE *3/27/84*

H.R. Schmidt 7/16/85

By: Dick Koogle 3/19/86

ANNEX "B"

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1952

FOR RELEASE AT 1900 HOURS, EDT, 9 SEPTEMBER 1952

The Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission today announced Joint Task Force 132 will conduct tests in the autumn months of this year looking toward the development of atomic weapons. The tests will be held at the Commission's Pacific Proving Grounds on Eniwetok Atoll of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. They will be conducted under full security provisions of the Atomic Energy Act. Only official observers of the United States government and members of the task force will be present at the tests. The organization of Joint Task Force 132 under the command of Maj. Gen. Percy W. Clarkson was announced February 18, 1952.

END

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ANNEX "C"

IVY INFORMATION PLAN - LETTER TO ALL JTF-132 PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Discussion of Operation IVY Outside Joint Task Force

TO: All JTF-132 Personnel

1. It is natural that upon return to your normal duty stations you will be questioned by friends, relatives, acquaintances and possibly by members of the press, all of whom will want to know where you were, what you were doing or what you saw out here. Their curiosity will probably be aroused by rumors and speculation in the newspapers on what we did here. By the time you return, an official announcement will probably have been made in Washington telling the public that we conducted atomic tests and that they have been completed; but no other information will be made public. As you know, the tests which we conducted were held under the full restrictions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, Public Law #585. This law was enacted to protect the atomic secrets of our country from falling into the hands of unfriendly powers, and heavy penalties can be imposed upon persons who violate the provisions of the law. In the interests of our country's security, then, we must all be very careful to guard whatever we know, and to prevent any information from becoming known to agents of unfriendly powers.

2. Following is a brief guide which will assist you in discussion of our operation after its' conclusion with persons not connected with JTF-132:

A. You are authorized to state the following:

(1) That you were assigned to JTF-132, which conducted atomic tests in the Pacific at Eniwetok Atoll.

(2) Your method of transportation, your itinerary to and from Eniwetok, but not your official movement during the operation.

(3) That you witnessed an atomic test, but not how many if you saw more than one.

(4) How long you were away.

(5) Names of friends and unofficial activities, such as recreation, vacation travel, church activity, messing, etc.

(6) Climatic conditions.

[REDACTED]

B. You are not authorized to discuss any subjects not included above, and particularly not the following:

- (1) Preparation for the tests.
- (2) Number or types of tests.
- (3) Physical characteristics of the tests, including size of the flash, size of the cloud, damage, precautions for personnel protection, etc.
- (4) Exact date or time of any test.
- (5) That you were evacuated or any information relating thereto.
- (6) Numbers of ships, planes, or types of equipment, either mobile or stationary, used for the tests.

P.W. CLARKSON
Major General, USA
Commander

ANNEX "D"

IVY INFORMATION PLAN - LETTER TO KEY PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Public Information For Operation IVY

TO: CTG 132.1, CTG 132.2, CTG 132.3, CTG 132.4,
Liaison Officers, Chiefs, J-Divisions

1. The National Security Council has approved the following plan for the release of information on the IVY Tests:

A. Following "MIKE" Shot, an announcement will be issued jointly by AEC-DOD, if deemed necessary as a result of widespread rumor or speculation in the United States, or if a foreign power has detected and commented upon the test.

B. Following "KING" Shot, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission will issue an announcement on completion of the test program.

2. This plan was formulated at a high government level and represents the sum total of effort to be made on public reporting of the tests.

3. As indicated in the plan, public statements by members of Joint Task Force 132 have not been authorized. All announcements will be coordinated with JTF-132, but will be released AEC or DOD, or both.

4. At a later date, a letter will be prepared by this headquarters for distribution to all personnel, outlining the limits of discussion of Operation IVY outside the Task Force. Briefly, care must be exercised by all personnel to insure that public comment is restricted to the substance of official announcements.

5. The text of all official announcements will be transmitted to you as early as possible and if feasible, prior to release.

ANNEX "E"

SECURITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR OBSERVERS

Unfriendly powers are capable of interfering with, or compromising, Operation IVY by espionage, sabotage and overt action including observation or raids by vessel or aircraft.

Concentrated on the small Eniwetok Atoll are millions of dollars worth of the very latest and most secret atomic devices and equipment, plus many of the nation's key atomic scientists. Your arrival in the test area will further increase the United States Government's investment and concentration of talent in the test area. Operation IVY is one of the most important and highly guarded classified laboratory experiments yet conducted.

Foreign powers may be expected to have agents in the United States and Hawaii. The identity of official observer groups, their itineraries or other information on their movements or actions could contribute to the compromising of the security of the tests. Press speculation also constitutes a definite security threat if knowledge of observer movements is acquired.

To safeguard security of information and to serve the interests of United States international relations, the National Security Council has specified that after September 9, 1952, no public statements shall be issued nor background information furnished to correspondents or other uncleared persons. After completion of the series a brief announcement approved by the National Security Council will be the only official statement issued on the tests.

For your information, copies of two press releases on this operation are attached. They constitute the only official information which has been released on Operation IVY. All other news articles were unofficial and purely speculative. All other information given you in connection with your invitation should be considered as classified security information. It is especially imperative that the time of test be kept secret.

I hereby certify that I have read the above and am fully aware of its content.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

CARL WILSON 3/27/94
REVIEWED BY . DATE

H.R. Schmidt 7/16/85

By: Dick Koogte 3/19/86

Signature

Date

Incls: Attached as Annex "A"
and "B" to Section II,
par. 5, of the Informa-
tion Plan