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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.

No. 356
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FOR RELEASE IN EVENING NEWSPAPERS
Tuesday, March 20, 1951

ATOM WEAPONS TESTS INCLUDE
EFFECTS ON STRUCTURES AND MATERIALS

The United States Atomic Energy Commission announced today, in response to inquiries from the American Institute of Architects, that test programs at the Commission's Eniwetok Proving Ground in the Pacific include extensive provisions for measurement of atomic weapons effects on structures and materials of various kinds.

The Commission has advised the AIA that a major project is being carried out to supplement data already obtained from other atomic blasts, with instrumentation specifically arranged to provide data for the development of design criteria needed by architects. This information will be made available to the Civil Defense Administration.

The test program at Eniwetok is being carried out by Joint Task Force THREE, commanded by Lt. General Elwood R. Quesada, USAF, and is made up of personnel of the Armed Services, AEC, other civil agencies of the government, and AEC contractors. In order to assure the safety of vessels and aircraft operating in the central Pacific, only units of the Task Force are permitted within the danger area around Eniwetok Atoll.

Full security restrictions as required by the Atomic Energy Act apply to all phases of the test program. No further information as to the composition, movement or operations of the Task Force is authorized for public release at this time.

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