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AEC 153/32

COPY NO. 28

May 15, 1951

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON OPERATION GREENHOUSE

Note by the Secretary

The attached report by the Director of Information Services is circulated by request of the General Manager for consideration by the Commission at an early date.

ROY B. SNAPP

Secretary

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

CLEARANCE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONCLUSION OF OPERATION  
GREENHOUSE TEST PROGRAM

Report by Director, Division of Information Service

THE PROBLEM

1. To consider for forwarding to NSC and for public release after NSC clearance, the text of a press release announcing completion of Operation GREENHOUSE.

BACKGROUND

2. The release text, distributed to the Commission on May 3, 1951, as the Annex to Enclosure "A" to AEC 153/30, was submitted in accordance with Public Information Plan, Operation GREENHOUSE, approved by the Commission at Meeting 546 on April 6, 1951, and by the President on April 17, 1951.

DISCUSSION

3. The announcement (Appendix "A") is recommended for release by the Commander, JTF-3, and was cleared by the MLC for the Department of Defense by letter dated May 11, 1951, attached as Appendix "B", with an exception taken by MLC, i.e., to delete the words referring to the number of shots.

4. The following non-substantive changes are desirable in the release as distributed in AEC 153/30 and approved by MLC:

a. In making the change in paragraph 1 recommended by MLC, the words "series of three (four)" were deleted and the words "program of" substituted therefore.

b. The first sentence of paragraph 3 has been amended to read as follows (additions are underscored, thus; deletions are stricken through, thus):

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"As previously announced, test activities at Eniwetok are under the security restrictions, including those of the Atomic Energy Act."

c. In order to clarify the classification status of data developed by Operation GREENHOUSE, paragraph 4 of the release was revised as follows: (New words inserted are underlined thus; deletions are striken through thus; and transposition is shown in parenthesis with an asterisk at the original position of transposed phrase).

"Information on several projects (in fields of Biology, Medicine and Radiology) will be declassified and provided to appropriate agencies of Government when results (\*) have been analyzed and evaluated. The program also includes comprehensive measurement of blast and thermal effects on structures aircraft and various other items. Much of this data will be declassified for use by both the Department of Defense and the Federal Civil Defense Agency. The data obtained includes additional information of primary value in the field of weapon effects."

d. The name of Dr. Graves was inserted in the first line of the last paragraph.

CONCLUSION

5. It is concluded that the proposed release is in accord with the approved Public Information Plan, Operation GREENHOUSE, and should be released (jointly by DOD and AEC) for publication on the day following last test shot at Eniwetok, or second day, depending upon recommendations of Commander JTF-3 in reflecting movements and activities of Task Force or observers.

STAFF JUDGMENTS

6. The conclusion is concurred in by the Directors of Military Application, Classification, Security, Intelligence, and Information Services.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Atomic Energy Commission:  
a. Approve the attached release (Appendix "A") for forwarding to the NSC by transmittal letter such as that attached as Appendix "C";

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b. Authorize, upon receipt of clearance by the NSC, release in accordance with Plan on date agreeable to Commander JTF-3 and General Manager;

c. Note that the Division of Information Services will coordinate issuance of this release with Department of Defense as indicated in Public Information Plan, Operation GREENHOUSE;

d. Note that the Joint Committee will be advised of this action by delivery of the text to the Committee offices prior to distribution to the press in accordance with the normal procedure.

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LIST OF ENCLOSURES

APPENDIX "A"

Draft Press Release Proposed for Issuance Upon Completion of GREENHOUSE.

APPENDIX "B"

Memorandum from H. McK. Roper, Col., USA, Executive Secretary to the Chairman, AEC dated May 11, 1951

APPENDIX "C"

Draft Letter from the Chairman, AEC to Executive Secretary, NSC

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APPENDIX "A"

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE PROPOSED FOR ISSUANCE UPON  
COMPLETION OF GREENHOUSE

1. The Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense today notified President Truman that a program of atomic weapons tests has been successfully carried out by Joint Task Force 3 at the Commission's Proving Ground at Eniwetok Atoll.

2. Lieutenant General Elwood R. Quesada, USAF, commands JTF-3, composed of personnel from the AEC, Army, Navy, Air Force and from educational and industrial organizations. Dr. Alvin C. Graves of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory is Scientific Deputy Commander of JTF-3.

3. As previously announced, test activities at Eniwetok are under security restrictions including those of the Atomic Energy Act. Information obtained from research on nuclear detonations, the major purpose of the tests, is secret. In furtherance of the President's directive of January 31, 1950, the test program includes experiments contributing to thermonuclear weapons research.

4. Information on several projects in fields of Biology, Medicine and Radiology will be declassified and provided to appropriate agencies of the Government when results have been analyzed and evaluated. The program also includes comprehensive measurement of blast and thermal effects on structures, aircraft and various other items. Much of this data will be declassified for use by both the Department of Defense and the Federal Civil Defense Agency. The data obtained includes additional information of primary military value in the field of weapons effects.

5. General Quesada and Dr. Graves will return to Washington in a few weeks to report to the Department of Defense and AEC. The Commission will continue to use the Eniwetok Proving Ground and the area will remain closed to unauthorized persons.

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APPENDIX "B"

May 11, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: Joint D/D-AEC News Release Upon Completion of GREENHOUSE Program

1. Reference is made to Commander, Joint Task Force THREE memorandum of 28 February, subject "Public Information Policy and Procedure, Operation GREENHOUSE."

2. The Military Liaison Committee has obtained the concurrence of the Department of Defense in the release of the attached GREENHOUSE announcement, with the exception of the words "three (four)" in line 2 of paragraph 1. The Committee believes that the inclusion of these excepted words would constitute gratuitous information of value to a potential enemy.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

for H. McK. Roper  
Col., USA  
Executive Secretary

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APPENDIX "C"

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN, AEC TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NSC

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of April 17, to the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Subject: Public Information on Operation GREENHOUSE.

2. Attached is the text of the press release for publication on either the first or second day following the final test in Operation GREENHOUSE, depending upon conditions at the time of completion of the tests.

3. This proposed release has been cleared by MLC for the Department of Defense and its approval for issuance is requested in accordance with the plan approved by the President on April 17, 1951.