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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Washington 25, D. C.

No. 374
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U. S. PROGRAM OF ATOMIC WEAPONS
TESTS SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT

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.

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.

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 announcement of January 31, 1950, the test program included experiments contributing to thermonuclear weapons research.

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 included 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 include additional information of primary military value in the field of weapons effects.

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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