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STATEMENT BY
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DEPUTY TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ATOMIC ENERGY 409156

News Conference, The Pentagon, Wednesday, June 13, 1951

The last joint press announcement of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense devoted to results of atomic tests took place at Honolulu on 18 May 1948 when the results of the SANDSTONE atomic tests were given to the public. In the intervening period much has happened to speed up the tempo and over-widening scope of our United States atomic energy effort.

Since it is the Atomic Energy Commission's responsibility by law to develop and manufacture atomic weapons, today's report is primarily their show. The Defense Department assigned the task force responsibility for this activity, known as Operation GREENHOUSE, to Lieutenant General Quesada, U. S. Air Force. His directive stated that he was to carry out a program of weapons testing, developed by the Commission after careful consultation and cooperation with the Department of Defense.

Because this activity has been carried on outside the continental limits of the United States and is of such a nature that it required a high degree of military security and military participation, the present program has been developed within a military framework. You will note, however, that the scientific Deputy Commander of this task force is an eminent civilian scientist, Dr. Alvin R. Graves, on loan from the Los Alamos weapons laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission.

It was my good fortune to spend almost a month in the Pacific during these Eniwetok tests. I can say from first hand knowledge that the teamwork was of the highest order. Both the military and civilian personnel were intermingled in the task force to such an extent that it was often difficult to tell whether a man came from one of the departments of the Army, Navy, or Air Force or from the Atomic Energy Commission, either by his costume or by the particular task he was performing. The standard uniform at Eniwetok was khaki shorts, half-sleeve shirts, heavy shoes and brown skin. Top eminent scientists, general and flag officers, service personnel, construction contractor personnel all looked alike and worked as a single team to accomplish this significant result.

It is a great pleasure and a real privilege to turn the meeting over to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Gordon Dean, who is an old hand at these meetings and is no stranger to you correspondents and press people here today.

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