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STATEMENT BY U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

There has been a test of an atomic weapon at the proving grounds of the Atomic Energy Commission on Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. For security reasons the date of the test is not being announced. A classified report of the test results is being made to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of the Congress. The test was conducted under full security restrictions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, and pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the public issuance of further information concerning the test is not permissible at present.

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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:—Following is a brief resume of previous statements concerning the proving ground at Eniwetok Atoll:

The Second Report of the United States Atomic Energy Commission to the Congress, dated July 22, 1947, stated that the Commission "is establishing proving grounds in the Pacific for routine experiments and tests of atomic weapons."

On December 1, 1947, it was announced that "construction has been started on Eniwetok Atoll for the Pacific Ocean installations announced last summer."

On December 22, 1947, the staffing and organization of the proving ground were announced and on December 30, 1947, public notice was given that hazards would exist in a defined area around Eniwetok Atoll after January 31, 1948, and throughout the calendar year 1948.

In the late winter months Joint Task Force 7 comprised of units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force completed construction at the proving ground. Extensive instrumentation was installed for the use of the scientific and technical group.

The Third Report of the Commission to the Congress, dated January 31, 1948, referred to the Commission's program of weapons research and stated that "the principal goal in this field is the scientific and engineering perfection of improved designs," and that "thorough testing of weapons and components under simulated operation conditions is necessary to improved design." The Report also noted that "the scientific and technical operations of the proving ground will provide new fundamental data and a broader understanding of the phenomena of nuclear fission, for peaceful as well as for military application of atomic energy."