

*mil. app*

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

409271

Washington, D. C.

January 21, 1948

**R**

REPOSITORY NARA/College Park  
COLLECTION R6 326/Lilienthal Files  
BOX No. 5  
FOLDER Eniwetok Proving Ground

Memorandum

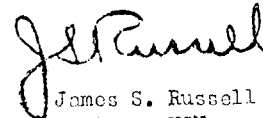
To: Principal Staff  
From: Captain James S. Russell, USN  
AEC Test Director  
Subject: Information Made Public Regarding the Eniwetok Proving Ground

The following information has been made public regarding the Atomic Energy Commission Proving Ground at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Western Pacific:

- a. Establishment of proving grounds in the Pacific for routine experiments and tests of atomic weapons. (Semi-annual Report to Congress July 22, 1947)
- b. Eniwetok is the site and construction by the Armed Forces, under Lt. General John E. Hull, has been started. Technical operations of proving ground will further peaceful as well as military application of atomic energy. Security restrictions will apply. Area to be closed. Eniwetok best site, involves removal of fewest natives. (Press Release, December 1, 1947)
- c. United Nations Security Council notified that the United States has closed Eniwetok Atoll. (State Department, December 2, 1947)
- d. Armed Forces will assist AEC in conducting tests. Joint Task Force organization with principal commander and staff officers announced. Scientific Director and staff, and Test Director and staff announced. Relations between Laboratory, AEC and Armed Forces discussed. (Press Release, December 22, 1947)
- e. Natives have been removed from Eniwetok to Ujelang. Choice made by natives who appear fully satisfied. (Navy Press Release, December 23, 1947)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- f. Danger area 150 x 200 nautical miles established with Eniwetok at the center. (Press Release, December 30, 1947)

  
James S. Russell  
Captain, USN

Distribution:

Commissioners	John K. Gustafson
General Manager	James B. Fisk
Fletcher C. Waller	Malcolm E. Pitts
John A. Derry	Paul W. Ager
Richard C. Niehoff	Paul M. Green
Roy B. Snapp	Morse Salisbury
Adrian Fisher	Donald E. Bostock
Shields Warren	Admiral John Gingrich
Roger S. Warner, Jr.	A. A. Wells
Brig. General James McCormack, Jr.	R. A. Lavendar
Walter J. Williams	Military Liaison Committee