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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 2, 1948

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The United States Atomic Energy Commission wishes to express its great appreciation for the major role of the National Military Establishment in the construction of the Proving Ground at Eniwetok Atoll and in the execution of the 1948 atomic weapon proof tests.

The support of the Military Establishment was effective and complete. The success of the test program was in large part due to the unselfish devotion to duty of the officers, civilian technicians, and enlisted men of the Armed Forces.

The Commission is particularly grateful to the Commander of Joint Task Force SEVEN, Lt. General John E. Hull. General Hull's sound judgment, patience and understanding have done much to bring closer together the scientific and military interests of the nation.

While the magnitude and complexity of Operation SANDSTONE prevent mentioning all the units and agencies of the Armed Forces which contributed to the noteworthy success of the tests, the Commission desires to cite certain organizations which worked particularly closely with the scientific group in the performance of experiments.

The United States Army, in addition to the significant contribution of its construction forces, assisted the scientific group from the Los Alamos Laboratory in experimentation by providing highly qualified technical personnel from the Ballistics Research Laboratory at Aberdeen. The Aberdeen Proving Ground also assisted by designing, building, and operating drone tank equipment.

The United States Navy provided well equipped laboratory ships. A particularly helpful contribution to the scientific group was the loan of scientific and technical personnel from the Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, and the David Taylor Model Basin. The operations of the Naval Research Laboratory group were particularly outstanding and are deserving of special mention.

The United States Air Force performed, with outstanding success, a valuable function for the scientific group in the collection of samples. The First Experimental Guided Missiles Group established new records of efficiency in the accomplishment of a difficult operation.

The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project provided technicians who rendered valuable assistance in the experimentation and command, staff, and technical personnel for the important and highly successful organization responsible for radiological safety.

The success of this joint venture is a reassurance that our two agencies have established the basis for greater mutual assistance and cooperation in the advancement of our national security.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

David E. Lillenthal  
Chairman

Honorable James Forrestal  
Secretary of National Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.