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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DESIGNATION OF COMMANDER, JTF-3 AS OVER-ALL REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR OVERSEAS OPERATIONAL PERIOD OF GREENHOUSE

Report by the Director of Military Application

THE PROBLEM

1. To designate Lt. General Elwood R. Quesada, Commander, Joint Task Force Three, as the Commission representative during the overseas operational period of GREENHOUSE.

BACKGROUND

2. The Commission, on December 23, 1949,\* proposed to General Quesada that he accept the designation as representative for the Commission during the operational period of GREENHOUSE. This proposal was subject to Joint Chiefs of Staff approval, but General Quesada indicated his personal acceptance of the proposal.

3. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, having considered the AEC comments (see Appendix to 153/8) on the plan for GREENHOUSE (JCS 1998/13), concurred in our recommendation that the Task Force Commander, (C, JTF-3) be designated as the representative of the AEC during the overseas operation (see AEC 153/10). The designation was to be made effective at a time mutually agreeable to the Commission and the Department of Defense.

DISCUSSION

4. The main body of JTF-3 will depart this country for Eniwetok during the latter half of February and during early

\* Copy of letter on file in Office of the Secretary.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

Carl Wilson 3/21/84  
REVIEWED BY

Wilbur Strauser 250628  
DATE

By: W. Touch 4/14/86

[REDACTED]

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March, 1951. General Quesada personally expects to arrive at Eniwetok and assume command of Eniwetok Atoll on or about 1 March 1951. On 1 February 1951, General Quesada replaced CinCPac in his command capacity of exercising over-all military responsibility for the Eniwetok area.

5. As Commander of JTF-3, whose mission is to prepare for and conduct Operation GREENHOUSE, and as the Commission's designated representative, it is essential that the Commander, Joint Task Force Three, be given full authority to act for the Commission. His responsibilities in this case will be analogous to and commensurate with those of AEC Field Managers under current delegations of authority and responsibility.

6. It will be necessary to withdraw temporarily from the Manager, SFO, the direct operational authority and responsibility for the development of the Eniwetok Proving Ground which the Commission delegated to him on May 13, 1948. This delegation made the office of Santa Fe Directed Operations the Field Agency of the Atomic Energy Commission responsible for administering the Commission's interests in the Eniwetok Proving Ground after the dissolution of JTF-7. A return of authority from the Commander, JTF-3, to the Manager, SFO, will be necessary upon completion of Operation GREENHOUSE, unless permanent test organization plans have by that time indicated other equivalent action.

7. It will be understood, however, that the Manager, SFO, will retain an over-all interest in the Eniwetok Proving Ground. He will assure his ability to resume full responsibility for the Proving Ground by means of reports concerning those actions taken by the Commander, JTF-3, which financially affect the AEC or which have a bearing on the long-range status of the Eniwetok

[REDACTED]

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Proving Ground. This coordination will be arranged between the Manager, SFO and the Commander, JTF-3 and assistance in assuring this action will be given by Dr. Alvin C. Graves, of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, the GREENHOUSE Scientific, Director, and Colonel George F. Schlatter, of the Division of Military Application, who will be on-site as Executive Assistant to Dr. Graves. Funding arrangements will continue to be made through direct agreement between the Manager, SFO and the Commander, JTF-3. Should requirements exceed funds available to the Manager, SFO, the Commission will be advised so that action can be taken.

8. The effective initial and terminal dates for this delegation of responsibility to Commander, JTF-3 should correspond to the anticipated period of overseas operation of JTF-3. It is now, however, practicable to set a definite terminal date, due to operational uncertainties inherent in the test program. The initial date, however, should be February 15, 1951. The terminal date will coincide with the conclusion of major overseas operations by JTF-3 and the consequent relinquishing of Atoll Command by the Commander, JTF-3, to the proper authority. This date is estimated to be July 1, 1951.

#### STAFF JUDGMENTS

9. The General Counsel has no legal objection. Both the Manager, SFO and the Commander, JTF-3 have given informal concurrence to this plan.

#### CONCLUSIONS

10. It is concluded that:

a. The Commission should inform Commander, JTF-3, through the Department of Defense, of his designation as representative of the Commission during the overseas operational period of GREENHOUSE;

[REDACTED]

b. The Commander, JTF-3 should be delegated full authority to act for the Commission in the operational conduct of Operation GREENHOUSE and the over-all direction of administration of the Eniwetok Proving Ground during the operational period;

c. Current direct responsibilities for the Eniwetok Proving Ground and GREENHOUSE would be temporarily withdrawn from the Manager, SFO, except for continuing responsibility for funding the AEC share of maintenance and operations;

d. The Manager, SFO, should be kept informed of action by Commander, JTF-3 affecting the AEC either financially or administratively.

#### RECOMMENDATION

11. That the Atomic Energy Commission:

a. Approve the delegation of full authority to the Commander, JTF-3, to act for the Commission in all matters pertaining to GREENHOUSE and the Eniwetok Proving Ground during the overseas period of Operation GREENHOUSE;

b. Approve dispatch of a memorandum such as that in Appendix "A" to the Commander, JTF-3, through the Department of Defense, informing him of his designation as Commission representative, effective February 15, 1951, and outlining his responsibilities;

c. Approve dispatch of a memorandum such as that in Appendix "B" to the Manager, SFO, apprising him of action in this matter and authorizing him to transfer custody of fissionable material to the Commander, JTF-3;

d. Note that the effective dates of the delegation of authority in a above will coincide approximately with the dates of assumption and relinquishment of command of Eniwetok Atoll by Commander, JTF-3;

e. Note that the Commission recognizes the full responsibility of the Commander, JTF-3, for decisions in emergency situations involving disposal or destruction of AEC equipment, including fissionable material;

f. Note that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will be advised of this action by appropriate letter.