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AEC 141/4

August 7, 1950

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

ATOMIC WEAPONS TESTS - LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Note by the Secretary

1. Attached for the information of the Commission is a letter from the Secretary of Defense in reply to a letter (AEC 141/3) from the Commission concerning future atomic weapons tests.

2. Also attached is a letter from the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee, regarding a joint survey of possible test sites.

REPOSITORY NARA - College Park

ROY B. SNAPP

COLLECTION R6 326, 46-51 Secretary

Secretary

BOX No. 102 (NN3-326-93-007)

FOLDER 471.6 (10-20-48)
Green house, Vol. #1

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WITH ATTACHMENTS ENCL

MI-0286

8-1-50

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have given further consideration to the timing and magnitude of Operation GREENHOUSE and have directed the Commander of Joint Task Force THREE to review the entire test program and schedule and make recommendations to them with respect to:

(1) the necessity for postponement of the weapons tests scheduled for the Spring of 1951 at Eniwetok taking into consideration the necessity for reallocation of both shipping and personnel from the tests, as originally scheduled, to the support of operations in the Far East;

(2) the delay which will ensue in conducting the tests on the basis of replacing certain Armed Forces personnel by personnel under civilian contract, and;

(3) the possibility of a reduction in scope of the tests.

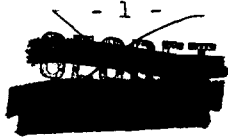
With respect to other test sites, I see no objection to proceeding with investigation of other possible locations outside the United States.

Sincerely yours

LOUIS JOHNSON

Honorable Gordon Dean
Chairman, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

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original index

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August 4, 1950

Dear Mr. Dean:

Since the pattern of events has overtaken the subject matter of your two letters of July 13, 1950 with reference to Operation GREENHOUSE and a suggestion for reexamination of a continental test site for emergency use, I believe that the Secretary of Defense's letter of August 4, 1950 in reply to yours of July 31 explains the status of the questions raised in your two letters.

If, after you and the Secretary of Defense review this situation with the President as outlined in Mr. Johnson's letter, it appears desirable to initiate a joint survey of possible atomic test sites outside the United States, Rear Admiral Ofstie, Major General Everest and Major General Nichols can be made available to work with the Commission for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

Robert LeBaron
Chairman

Honorable Gordon E. Dean
Chairman, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

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- 2 -

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