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SUGGESTED DRAFT OF STATEMENT PROPOSED FOR RELEASE BY THE WHITE HOUSE FOLLOWING VISIT OF COMMISSIONERS WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE MORNING OF MONDAY 17 MAY 1948.

The President today received from the United States Atomic Energy Commission a report on tests of atomic weapons conducted at the Commission's proving ground at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The tests were held pursuant to approval of the President given in June, 1947. The first series of the tests are now completed.

The Commission reported that the tests, involving atomic weapons ^{these} of improved design, were successful in all respects and the results indicate very substantial progress. The President gave general approval of Commission plans for steps ^{it} proposed ^{at} ~~take~~ for further nuclear development, based upon information gained from the tests.

As previously announced by the Commission the tests were conducted under the security provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and information as to the scientific results and technical details of the tests cannot be made public at this time. The area of Proving Ground, as previously defined, remains closed to unauthorized persons.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Secretary of National Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission have authorized statements of acknowledgment of the services of the personnel engaged in the tests, for release by the military and scientific leaders of the project upon their return to Honolulu tomorrow.

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By ST/...

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