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Congress of the United States

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY
(CREATED PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 585, 79TH CONGRESS)

THE WHITE HOUSE

January 12, 1954

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Dear Mr. President:

As Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, I am exploring in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Commission and the Federal Civil Defense Administration the possibility of showing to all members of Congress the "Official Use Only" version of the film describing Operation IVY, the Eniwetok nuclear tests of the fall of 1952. The Atomic Energy Commission has already assured me that the film contains no information the revelation of which would be prejudicial to the common defense and security.

We, of course, wish to be sure that showing this film at this time, and in this manner, would not be inharmonious with the over-all objectives of our national policy toward the dissemination of atomic information, and we particularly wish to be assured that exhibition of this film before Congress with the consequent attention that would be drawn to it would not prejudice the reception which has been accorded your historic address on December 8 before the United Nations. Additionally, it is my thought to make a showing for the accredited members of the Washington press corps at a later date. We would therefore be most grateful to receive an expression of your viewpoint on this matter in order to conclude the necessary arrangements.

Should you see no objections to these tentative plans, I have been wondering whether it might be possible to introduce this film to the Congress with a written statement from you. Conceivably, such a statement could relate Operation IVY to the broad issues confronting the peoples of the world as a result of the harnessing of nuclear energy for military and peacetime applications.

I am confident that any statement you might see fit to make would be earnestly received by the members of the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Sterling Cole
Chairman

The President
The White House