

No. 7 of 7 Copies Series A

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General Manager

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Director of Military Application

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PRESS RELEASE FOR HARDTACK SHOTS AT JOHNSTON ISLAND

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1. The Commission approved relocation of Orange and Teak shots to Johnston Island at meeting 1352 on 7 April, 1958. The Commission was informed of the President's approval of this relocation at Meeting 1353 on 9 April, 1958.
2. It is considered that an early press release should be made in connection with the utilization of Johnston Island by CJTF-7 as a base from which he will fire these two shots.
3. The attached proposed announcement of the utilization of Johnston Island in connection with the Hardtack series has been drafted and approved by the staffs of the Commission, the Department of Defense and the Department of State. Within the Commission it has the concurrence of the Division of Military Application, the Division of Information Services and the Division of Classification. It has been concurred in by CJTF-7.
4. It is recommended that the attached proposed release be submitted to the Commission for their early consideration and approval.

REPOSITORY NARA - College Park  
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 FOLDER MR & A-7, Hardtack Vol. 3

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- 5A - reader
- 6A - DMA files
- 7A - Secretariat

This material contains information affecting the national defense within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794, and the transmission or revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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PROPOSED  
STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND CHAIRMAN, AEC

As a part of Operation HARDTACK certain missiles with nuclear warheads will be fired from Johnston Island, an isolated land mass in the Central Pacific Ocean. These firings are necessary for the development of suitable weapons for the defense of the United States and the free world.

The missiles to be fired will be of limited (less than 200 miles) range and must be launched from a land mass. To avoid all possibility of danger to inhabited areas, it has been decided that these firings should be conducted from Johnston Island. This island is located some 650 statute miles southwest of the nearest inhabited island of the Hawaiian chain, and some 900 statute miles from the nearest other inhabited island. Johnston Island is in an area in which sea and air travel and fishing are very light, and is therefore best suited for these firings. These firings have ~~not~~ <sup>a part of the</sup> been ~~added to the~~ schedule for the current series, <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ they are firings planned from Johnston Island <sup>the above</sup> for these reasons.

At an appropriate time a temporary danger area will be established for as limited a period as is possible.

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