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Memorandum For: Those Listed Below

Subject: EXPANDED STANDARD FORM FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF TESTS
IN HARDTACK SERIES.

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Commissioner Libby proposes that we expand the announcements of shots in the HARDTACK series to include the purpose of the shot, the place of firing, the yield in megaton or kiloton range, the coordinates of the firing place to the nearest second and the time of detonation to the nearest tenth of a second.

The Divisions of Military Application and Information Services believe that the purpose of the shots and the general size of yield should not be given.

Of the 15 shots which have been or are to be announced under the criteria adopted by the Commission and the Department of Defense only five are under one megaton. The result of announcing the yield in kiloton or megaton range would be to give the impression that the series included mainly detonations of megaton range and call in question our earlier announcement that the series was in considerable part for the purpose of developing small weapons. For this reason the staff divisions recommend against giving yield ranges.

The reasons for staff disfavoring announcement of purpose of shots are as follows:

1. Announcement of purpose would give the USSR a better idea of the U.S. over-all approach in weapons development.
2. Several of the devices have two or more purposes. If only one purpose is stated for these weapons we will mislead the public; it seems undesirable for intelligence reasons to announce all purposes of all shots.

There is no difference of opinion on giving place of firing, and accurate information on the coordinates and on the time.

Attached is a new standard form suggested by Dr. Libby's office. I would like to discuss it with the Commissioners in the next executive session. If we approve, the changes in standard form will be submitted to the Department of Defense for concurrence.

/s/ R. W. Cook

Acting General Manager

Attachment

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6-2-58

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NEW STANDARD FORM FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF TESTS IN HARDTACK SERIES

A nuclear test detonation took place at 00 hours, 00 minutes, 00.0 seconds, a.m. (date), 1958, Eniwetok time (here insert equivalent time and date E.T.D.) at the (Eniwetok or Bikini Atoll, or Johnston Island), (here insert in parenthesis latitude and longitude to the nearest second).

The detonation, which took place (on an atoll, on a barge, in the air) had a yield in the (megaton or kiloton) range. The purpose of the test was the development of (e.g., a defense against missiles or weapons with reduced fallout or military effect).

The detonation was part of the HARDTACK nuclear weapons test series underway at the Eniwetok Proving Ground.

(Certain of these data are given as matters of general scientific interest, especially to those concerned with International Geophysical Year projects. Specifically, the shock can be used to study the earth's internal structure. Seismologists are urged to submit their findings to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey which is the official government agency for compilation of such information.)