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OFFICE OF THE TEST MANAGER
Nevada Proving Grounds
Mercury, Nevada

May 22, 1953

SUBJECT: INFORMATION GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

Official observers may be contacted by news correspondents or may otherwise have occasion to discuss publicly the nuclear test which they are to attend. The following guidance will assist them in determining what may be said without compromising the security of classified information.

IN ADVANCE OF THE SHOT

It is suggested that comments to public news representatives or other uncleared persons be limited to confirmation that the observer is in Nevada to witness the forthcoming test of the 280MM rifle and of the nuclear projectile. To this may be added any desired observation about value of such orientation.

Do not discuss nor reveal the exact time of the shot, anything about related experiments, anything about estimated yield, nor arrangement of materiel to be tested.

FOLLOWING THE SHOT

Contents from the following and the attached FACT SHEET ON THE ATOMIC RIFLE PROJECTILE TEST will not disclose classified information.

"I observed the first test of the firing of a nuclear projectile from the 280MM gun this morning, from a distance of approximately 7 miles. This test has provided our scientists and military technicians with extremely valuable data on the use and capability of this latest artillery piece firing an atomic shell.

"Today's test supplied certain detailed information relating to the performance of this weapon on which civilian and military scientists have cooperated so effectively."

To this may be added:

The observer's personal sensory impressions as to the blast itself, such as color, magnitude, impact of sound and shock.

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The observer's personal or official opinion **concerning** the value and conduct of the nuclear test and related activities, such as troop **maneuvers**.

The observer should not discuss nor disclose any other information obtained through official position, through briefing at Nevada Proving Grounds, nor through the loud-speaker prior to or following the detonation.

There should be no discussion of the following:

Any facts pointing to yield, comparison to other bursts, amount of active material employed, details of instrumentation, or relationship to any weapons program.

Future test operations at any location.

Transport of fissionable material.

The Test Organization has two services available to assist observers in considering replies to inquiries or public statements. The Joint AEC-DOD Office of Test Information is located at 1235 South Main Street, Las Vegas, Telephone 6350. Classification guidance may be obtained through the Test Classification Office, with representatives at the Nevada Proving Grounds and at the Test Information Office.

CARROLL L. TYLER
Test Manager

Attachment:
Fact Sheet

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Test Information Office
1235 South Main Street
Las Vegas, Nevada

FACT SHEET ON
Atomic Cannon Projectile Test

On October 15, 1952, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the Army publicly demonstrated the 280 mm. cannon which is capable of firing an atomic projectile. This public unveiling followed eight years of research and development which perfected the cannon.

In 1944, the Army took initial steps to develop a heavy artillery piece that would be superior to artillery weapons of World War II. In 1948, the Army experts teamed with civilian scientists and engineers of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia to design the gun. Work began on a pilot model a short time later.

In 1949, it was determined that it would be practicable to produce atomic projectiles which could be fired from a large caliber weapon. As a result the gun was redesigned in certain respects to accommodate such a projectile. In 1951 the first unit was completed and ready for initial non-nuclear tests.

This cannon, the Army's largest artillery piece will for the first time fire an atomic projectile in this series. The projectile was designed by the joint efforts of Army Ordnance experts and of the Commission's Los Alamos and Sandia Laboratories. This test will occur late in the current series of tests.

The atomic artillery shell will be fired electrically. After the shell has been loaded into the cannon, and before an electrical impulse detonates the propelling charge, the Army gun crew will retire behind revetments a safe distance from the weapon. Actual firing will be by the sequence timer in the Control Point.

The 85-ton gun has a range of approximately 20 miles and is more accurate at long ranges than any mobile artillery piece now in use. In the ballistics tests at Fort Sill on March 26, the shell was fired for a distance of approximately seven miles. Shells used in the Fort Sill tests weighed approximately 800 pounds and were timed to burst at 500 feet above ground level.

The cannon's nuclear test will be fired at Frenchman Flat and the test will be witnessed by observers from the Armed Services and the AEC. The firing is designed to test performance of the weapon, its effect on a target, and the burst's effects on various structures and material.

The crew which will man the weapons for the forthcoming test has undergone intensive training with the cannon at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. These men are members of the Army's 52nd Field Artillery Group.

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JOINT AEC-DOD VISITORS BUREAU
NEVADA PROVING GROUNDS
MERCURY, NEVADA

22 May 1953

Congressional Observers

Included herein is a digest of administrative matters pertaining to your stay here at Indian Springs Air Force Base.

An itinerary concerning important events is attached. In the event of a delay or change in the scheduled operation, a meeting will be held in the ISAFB Theatre, Building T-39, to acquaint you with the situation and to present alternate plans. Time of this meeting will be announced. Announcement of any delay will be made immediately. When delays of a day or more occur, tours to various local points of interest will be arranged by the Visitors Bureau.

Recreation buses will leave for Las Vegas from ISAFB departing Congressional Observers Building T-65 at 1800 and 1900 hours D-2, 23 May 1953, and at 1900 and 1930 hours, 24 May 1953. Buses will disembark passengers at the Union Pacific Railroad Station in Las Vegas. The trip to Las Vegas will take about 50 minutes. Buses will return to ISAFB from Union Pacific Railroad Station departing at 2300, 2400 and 0100 each night.

Departure of Special Air Missions Aircraft (SAM) is scheduled for approximately 1530 hours on D Day. Tour officers will be located in Operations Office, ISAFB, to enter names on manifest. Loading will commence 30 minutes prior to departure time. Baggage will be assembled in accordance with the return plane of each individual.

Those persons requiring transportation requests, reservations and transportation to meet connections in Las Vegas are requested to make requirements known as early as possible to Major Stancari, AEC-DOD Visitors Bureau representative, at the information desk in the ISAFB Operations Office.

Individuals desiring to attend Church Services should contact Visitors Bureau representative for necessary transportation.

This is my room

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R E S T R I C T E D
SECURITY INFORMATION

22 May 1953

Congressional Observers

D-2

1630 - 1830 Dinner, ISAFB
1800 and Recreation Bus departs ~~ISAFB~~ for Union Pacific Railroad
1900 Station, Las Vegas
1900 Movies - ISAFB
2300 and Recreation Bus departs Union Pacific Railroad Station for
2400 ISAFB

D-1

0100 Recreation Bus departs Union Pacific Railroad Station
for ISAFB
0730 Reveille
0745 - 0845 Breakfast
0845 - 0855 Load Buses at ISAFB
0855 Depart ISAFB
0925 Arrive Gate #1
0940 Depart Gate #1
0945 Arrive Mercury (Recreation Room)
1000 - 1045 Briefing at Mercury (1st Section - Mr. Tyler & Col. Preuss)
1045 - 1055 Break
1055 - 1145 Briefing (2d Section - Mr. Corsbie & Col. Armstrong)
1145 - 1240 Lunch at Mercury
1240 - 1250 Load Buses
1250 - 1310 Arrive Gun Position
1310 - 1330 Depart Gun Position
1350 Arrive Frenchman Flat
1450 Depart Frenchman Flat
1510 Arrive News Nob
1510 - 1515 Rest Stop
1515 Depart News Nob
1535 Arrive Area #1 Station 300
1605 Depart Area #1
1620 Arrive FCDA Residences
1700 Arrive News Nob for Rad-Safe Inspection
1710 Depart News Nob
1745 Clear Gate #1
1815 Arrive ISAFB
1830 - 1930 Dinner - ISAFB
1930 Documentary Film, ISAFB Theatre Building, T-39
1900 and Recreation bus departs ISAFB for Union Pacific Railroad
1930 Station, Las Vegas
2300 and Recreation bus departs Union Pacific Railroad Station
2400 for ISAFB

R E S T R I C T E D
SECURITY INFORMATION

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22 May 1953

Congressional Observers

D-Day

0100 Recreation bus departs Union Pacific Railroad Station
for ISAFB
0430 Reveille
0445 - 0545 Breakfast
0550 - 0600 Load Buses at ISAFB
0600 Depart ISAFB
0630 Arrive Gate #1
0645 Depart Gate #1
0650 Clear Gate #2
0710 Arrive Observer Area
0845 Depart Observer Area
0910 Arrive Control Point
1030 Depart Control Point
1100 Arrive Mercury
1100 - 1200 Lunch at Mercury
1200 - 1210 Load Buses at West End Cafeteria #1
1210 Depart Mercury for Frenchman Flat
1240 Arrive Frenchman Flat
1340 Depart Frenchman Flat
1415 Clear Gate #1
1445 Arrive ISAFB
1530 (approx) SAM Planes depart ISAFB

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