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on, November 12th, Washington time; depending upon weather, ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
detonation will be a proof-test of a high yield fission bomb  
dropped from a B-36 aircraft.

We are attempting to keep the Russians in the dark as to what has been and will be exploded in the test series. In view of the large number of personnel involved in the operation, and in view of the size of the detonation and the fact that the light could be observed at sea for several hundred miles, it is not likely that we can for long keep from the Russians the fact that there has been a thermonuclear explosion; although to date weather has played into our hands in that the winds have held the cloud for a period of seven days over the Pacific making it virtually impossible for the Russians to obtain samples from the cloud and thus determine the nature of the explosion.

Unclassified seismic stations picked up the explosion. They will be able to place the epicenter of what they will probably regard as an underwater earth tremor as being in the neighborhood of the Eniwetok Atoll. We nevertheless do not propose to confirm that the tremor was attributable to our test series.

Since calling you on November 7th a speculative story, originating in Los Angeles, to the effect that we have detonated a hydrogen bomb, has received rather wide dissemination. However, barring some now unforeseeable circumstance, it is our plan to make no announcement concerning the test series until after it is concluded -- probably on November 13th. We have always made such concluding announcements in the past. In the announcement we propose to say, as we did at the conclusion of the 1951 tests, that "the test program included experiments contributing to thermonuclear weapons research."

While the information concerning the Eniwetok tests is of immediate significance, there are other problems facing the Commission in the next few months concerning which you may wish to be informed.

We have prepared for you a Top Secret memorandum, running to about fifteen pages, dealing with our current stockpile position, the organization and operation of the Commission, its relationship

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to the office of the President, the Department of Defense, the Congress, and which sets forth some of the current problems facing the Commission in the next few months. We are prepared to make this available to you at any time you choose. We are also prepared to brief you completely, at any time you designate, on the atomic energy program.

Be assured that the Commission is happy to assist you in every possible way.

Sincerely,

Gordon Dean  
Chairman

Department of Energy  
Historian's Office  
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General Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Augusta, Georgia

OFFICE OF THE HISTORICIAN  
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D.C.

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