

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NLE 2012-47 #14</u>
By <u>MLK</u> NLDDE Date <u>3/3/14</u>

WZ

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

STAFF NOTES NO. 368

May 15, 1958

1. HARDTACK Shot. -- Defense reports that the results of the initial atomic test of Operation HARDTACK on April 28 at Eniwetok (a 2-KT yield warhead suspended from a balloon at 90,000 ft. altitude) were about as expected. The US detection system recorded detonation by electromagnetic means; but seismic and sonic instrumentation did not register. If the actual time of the detonation had not been known, its identification as a nuclear explosion would have been impossible, since many thunderstorms give signals of intensity equal to those of small nuclear weapons. No adverse effects on personnel (either native or military) or installations occurred. There was no known press speculation, either foreign or domestic, that the test was observed and that the HARDTACK series had begun. Announcement of the test was made by Congressman Porter on his return from Eniwetok, where he was briefed along with other US observers on the occurrence of this test. (S-RD)



2. Chinese Reply to UK on Korea. -- The Chinese Communists have replied to the British note of April 9 that if the Sixteen decide to withdraw all UN forces from South Korea, they will propose a conference on the peaceful settlement of the Korean problem. (The British note embodied the opinions of the sixteen nations contributing troops to the UN Command, and was a reply to the Communist proposal for military withdrawal and general elections in Korea.) State believes that the Communists are attempting to maintain the initiative on the troop withdrawal question while avoiding commitments on procedures for free elections. (S)

3. School Bonds. -- For the 9 months July 1957-March 1958, public school bonds approved by the voters declined \$.5 billion, or 45%, compared with the same period last year. The value of bonds submitted for voter approval decreased by one-third, while the rejection rate rose from 14% to 29%. HEW notes that this trend could mean a decrease in school construction in the near future. (Admin. Conf.)

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~

~~SECRET~~

This document contains restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Its transmittal or the disclosure of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited.