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HR-M/RSC

4-28-94

Honorable Chet Holifield
Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During my testimony of April 19th I was asked to furnish for the record a list of accidents in which nuclear weapons have been lost and never recovered.

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O.S.O. E.O. 12356, Section 1.3(c)(1)(2)(7)

SENSITIVE INFORMATION DELETED

There have been two such incidents involving complete weapons:

1. On 8 February 1958 near Savannah, Georgia, a B-47 carrying a [redacted] weapon collided with an F-86. The weapon was jettisoned in 100 feet of water in the Savannah River. The weapon was never recovered. This accident, including the weapon loss, was released to the press.
2. On 5 December 1965 in the western Pacific an A4 aircraft with a [redacted] weapon on board was lost over the side of the aircraft carrier USS TICONDEROGA in 2700 fathoms of water. The aircraft, pilot and weapon were not recovered. No public announcement of this incident has been made, nor is any intended. This subject is considered sensitive because of its potential impact upon visits of the TICONDEROGA and other warships to foreign ports.

There have been two additional incidents resulting in the loss of weapons less capsules:

1. On 29 July 1957 at sea off the New Jersey coast a C-124 lost power on two engines and was forced to jettison two [redacted] without capsules into the Atlantic Ocean. This accident was not released to the press.

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