

Internal Report By AEC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Mike Gravel disclosed today a copy of an internal report by the Atomic Energy Commission which confirms his earlier claim that the AEC engages in illegitimate public relations tactics to sell its underground nuclear testing program.

The report was uncovered by the General Accounting Office as part of an investigation of Senator Gravel's earlier accusations of AEC propaganda activity during the time of the last underground nuclear test, MILROW, exploded in Alaska, in October, 1969.

A test five times larger in magnitude, code-named CANNIKIN, is tentatively scheduled for next month. Senator Gravel has been leading the opposition to

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that test and has urged the President to cancel it.

In a Senate Floor statement today releasing the secret AEC report, Senator Gravel said the AEC "justifies its extensive public relations effort to 'sell MILROW on a basis of 'good guys' vs. 'bad guys.'"

"Nowhere in the report is there a recognition that opposition to the test may be based on scientific accuracy or that it may be honestly motivated."

Senator Gravel described how the AEC purposely misled the press with erroneous statements. He cited an instance where the AEC boasted of waging a calculated campaign to win over a prominent Alaska newspaper

editor.

He quoted from the report's description of an Alaskan who headed a statewide group opposed to MILROW and termed the reference, "slanderous."

Senator Gravel said that the public relations effort to sell CANNIKIN is even more expensive and elaborate.

He said he was calling the matter to the Senate's attention "not to beat ghosts of past errors, but because the issue is very much alive today. CANNIKIN is upon us and the selling job is all too familiar."

Senator Gravel inserted the entire AEC report in the September 15 Congressional Record.