

Civilians to See Atomic Explosion

WASHINGTON (UP)—The government announced yesterday that newsmen and hundreds of civil defense workers would be invited to witness a test in mid-April of atomic violence against a residential community.

The Atomic Energy Commission and the Civil Defense Administration announced jointly that the so-called "open shot" had been tentatively set for mid-April at the AEC's atomic ground in Nevada. It will be one of several explosions in a test series scheduled to start around Feb. 17.

A civil defense field exercise

will be held in connection with the open shot. It will be the first of its kind, with some 350 civil defense volunteers and workers, and aircraft of the Civil Air Patrol's Nevada wing participating.

The atomic target will include "several residences," some provided by private industry, new kinds of shelters, and utility installations such as electric equipment, and liquid, natural, and manufactured gas installations.

Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson said "this will be the most comprehensive and valuable civil defense technical test program to date."

The effects of atomic weapons were tested in March, 1953, at the Nevada proving ground but against only two houses and a smaller number of shelters and automobiles.