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Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, USN
Chief of Naval Operations
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Reference: Op-214/bb, Ser 7107P21

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Dear Admiral Burke:

It is a pleasure to report that the fifth follow-up medical examination of the Marshallese Islanders has been successfully completed and the personnel of the team have returned to their laboratories. Dr. Conard has written that the Commander and crew of the U.S.S. PLUMAS COUNTY (LST 1083) were most cooperative and contributed greatly to the success of the expedition. It is difficult to express appreciation of such outstanding cooperation.

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Similarly, every one who has assisted in any way with the organization of this expedition has commented on the generous assistance provided by all members of your staff in Washington and in the Pacific. The liaison was perfect. It would be kind of you to convey our sincere thanks.

Unfortunately, we must report that the MATS transport plane returning our equipment and data to the United States developed engine trouble and had to jettison much of our material. Some of the data is considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant a small task force visit to Rongelap to secure immediately the lost data. This information pertains to the whole body counts which are representative of the body burdens of contaminating radionuclides. The sense of immediacy arises from the need to secure such base-line data prior to any possible recontamination of the area by the current tests. Informal discussion with members of the JTF-7 indicates that such a short-term small expedition is logistically possible and would not occasion any interruptions of present exercises. As soon as the make-up and timing of this small expedition can be determined, permission to use facilities of JTF-7 will be requested through appropriate channels.

Sincerely yours,

RG 181 AGENCY/NRDL

General Manager

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