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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

400357

June 23, 1947

JMD
4/23

TO : John A. Derry, Assistant to the General Manager
FROM : J. H. Manley
SUBJECT: BIKINI SURVEY

My conversation with Commander Revelle last Thursday led to an agreement with him that it would be necessary to do some radiochemical work at Bikini in order to make the sampling process satisfactory. It did not, however, lead to a firm conviction that the overall program was justifiable from the point of view of Commission support. The justification for the operation was not completely clear and the statement that the Navy and MLC approved the operation did not to my mind clarify it. The main argument was based on obtaining data which could be extrapolated to other harbors. I am very doubtful whether this can be done, no matter how much detailed information becomes available on Bikini. Although I am quite willing to admit that it would be very nice to have detailed information, I have the uneasy feeling that a considerable amount of work may be expended in this task without very concrete results in regard to future tactical use.

I would further point out that it is not at all clear and I have seen no detailed information concerning the program as to how the results are to be obtained, whose responsibility it is, the number of man-hours required, the length of time the investigation is to be carried on after the survey at Bikini proper, and how the coordination between biologists, oceanographers, physicists, and radiochemists is to be achieved after the expedition for the purpose of continuing analysis of samples and coordination of results. I have the feeling that the task could become very involved, that the responsibility of the Commission would be almost unending, and that it could well interfere in a serious manner with the other objectives of the Commission.

It would be my recommendation that the Commission support the project in principle, but that it exert no pressure on its contractors to supply personnel to carry out the operations. This is particularly true with respect to radiochemists.

JMD

cc: S. G. English,
Div. of Research

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DATE
Dennis W. Murphy, BN, ADD