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DBM: REWB

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March 11, 1958

Major Frank Richie
Joint Task Force-7
Constitution & 12th Street
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Frank:

Thank you for requesting the Public Health Service to send us a copy of the Report in Manual for Public Health Service Participants, Operation HARDTACK, at Pacific Proving Grounds during 1958. This raises a question that I do not know how to approach other than in a straight forward manner.

As you know we have always worked closely and harmoniously on radiological safety matters. We will have a stake in this business as witness the aftermath of the event of March 1, 1954. The Atomic Energy Commission has shouldered its share of the burden following this incident, perhaps far more than JTF-7 whose individual members have, in the main, gone their many ways. Although we were aware, in general, that Public Health Service would assist in off-site operations it was disconcerting to learn for the first time last week that extensive and formal arrangements had been completed with the Public Health Service, including the development of radiological safety criteria. I am sure there has been no intentional oversight since JTF-7 and AEC have worked together in preparing the onsite criteria, but it does remind us that we should continue to work together on all such pertinent matters.

There are three points of criteria that I would question.

- (1) There is no provision for the dozen people living permanently on Eniastok Island who are potentially more vulnerable than Rongelap,
- (2) An emergency condition is said to exist at 1r/hr. I think this should be re-examined,
- (3) We are currently going through a painful public relation problem because close beta counts, only, were taken.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
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Maj. Frank Richie

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These may help you and I obtain a "feeling" for the situation, but unfortunately past experience has shown that any number collected is subject to publication, and then misinterpretation by the public. We must do an acceptable job of isotopic analyses under conditions that preclude ~~class~~ contamination of the samples.

I am sorry that you had to leave ^{your} for the Pacific before we could talk, but I am sure there will be plenty of opportunity when we get together at Eniwetok.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon M. Dunning, Chief
Radiation Effects of Weapons Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: Dr. Dunham
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