V. S. S. BAIROKO (CVB-115)

Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

EOB:TELM:rd CVE115/M3-4 RG Ser: 0010 1 11 MAR 1954

Location WNRC

Becom No. 618-1740 Box # /

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander Task Group 7.3

CTG B3 WISTORY-NS NOV. 1951

Subj: Radioactive contamination; summary of for period 1-8 March 1954

WIND ENFRGY HOL

Ref: (a) Appendix IV to Annex G, CTG 7.3 OpPlan 1-53

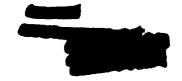
(b) CO, USS BAIROKO (CVE-115) sec ltr M3-4 ser 008 of 7 Mar 1954

Encl: (1) Tabulation of average intensities topside

(2) Copy of reference (b)

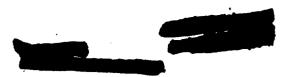
1. In accordance with reference (a) the following report of radioactive contamination is submitted for the period 3-8 March 1954. Reference (b) contained a report of contamination and decontamination efforts on 1 and 2 March 1954.

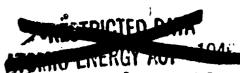
- 2. At 0830 on 3 March 1954 this ship entered BIKINI ATOLL and anchored in berth N-5. Helicopter operations were conducted throughout the day. The canvas bath tub for decontamination of aircraft was rigged on the flight deck, aft of number two elevator and all returning aircraft that had landed on the atoll were landed in the tub for monitoring and washdown with fresh water. Passengers were debarked in the tub, monitored, and processed through the forward personnel decontamination station, if necessary. We further efforts were made to decontaminate the flight deck, however, several details were busy all day cleaning out flight deck drains where high rediation reading were noted. The average intensity in these drains was between 80 and 100 milli reentgen per hour (gamma only) with one reading as high as 500 milli reentgen per hour (gamma only). Stoppages in these drains were caused, for the most part, by excess accumulation of wood splinters, rust flakes and paint chips jamming at the junction of two or more drain lines while fire hoses were being used to wash down the flight deck.
- 3. Decontamination work on the port and starboard gun sponsons was started after anchoring on 3 March 1954. The methods employed included hosing down with high pressure fire hoses, hosing and scrubbing with salt water and wiping down with fresh water. Number one motor whaleboat was decontaminated with a soap and water scrub down followed by a fresh water wipe down. The 40 MI gun and gun director canvas covers registered high radiation in spots where water from previous wash downs had collected in pools. By hosing and scrubbing with soapy water, the intensity of all canvas covers was reduced below 20 milli roentgen per hour (games only). The covers were then stowed in a void on the fantail to allow the intensity to reduce by natural decay. The average deck intensity on the starboard sponsons was reduced to 9 milli roentgen per hour (gamma only) by the end of the day. The only points of high radiation being two cocos mat fenders which



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were left over the side as far removed from personnel as possible. Repeated hosings with salt water reduced their intensity from 125 to 30 milli roentgens per hour (gamma only).

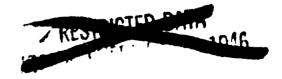
- 4. On 4 March 1954, decontamination workson the port gum sponsons was completed. The methods used were similar to those employed on the starboard side. At the completion of the days work the average deck intensity on the port sponsons was 7 milli roemigen per hour (gamma only). The hot spots were ventilation duct screens and one cocoa mat fender, which had average readings of 30 milli roemigen per hour (gamma only). The vent screens were removed, placed on dock and scrubbed which reduced their intensity to 15 milli roemigen per hour (gamma only).
- 5. The average intensity on the hanger deck at 1600, 4 March 1954 was 2.7 milli rocatgen per hour (gamma only). Decontamination efforts on this deck consisted mainly of sumbbing up water which leaked through the roller curtain doors during hosing down operations on the weather decks. The average intensity in berthing spaces below the hanger deck was less than 2 milli roeatgen per hour (gamma only) by 1600, 4 March 1954.
- 6. Decontamination efforts of 40 HM guns and gun directors were of minor nature. Exposed gun barrels, gun carriages, and director pedestals were scrubbed with scap and water and wiped down with fresh water. Contamination was highest in the bottom of the empty brass shutes under the elevation goar racks. The average reading was 5 milli reentgen per hour (gamma only) and the highest was 10 milli reentgen per hour (gamma only) on mount 45 which was uncovered during the period of fall out. The remainder of the work necessary on the guns and gun directors was routine maintenance to remove corresive salt deposits.
- 7. While at anchor in BIKINI .TOLL the intensity reading on the salt water piping system did not exceed 2 milli roentgen per hour (gamma only). on 8 March 1954, the evaporator drain pump strainers were opened on all four evaporators. The intensity reading of the scale accumulations was found to be 5 milli roentgen per hour (gamma only). All fresh water samples from the evaporators tested by Task Group 7.1 have shown 1/5000 riere curries per milliliter or less.
- 8. Decontamination of the ship was considered completed at the end of the day on 4 Harch 1954. Decontamination of helicopters and personnel continues as required.

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010700 H	11°20.5'	165-471	0.3
01.0800 M	11•19.5'	165.17 8	0.3
01.0900 M	11•12'	362.17,	, 500
011000 M	11.141	165*441 .	500 *
011100 M	11.57,	165*43.5*	500
011200 M	11•12•	165°40'	35 0
011300 H	11.12,51	165*41'	300
011400 M	11•13.51	165•391	24. 0
011500 N	11•14'	165*41'	. 200
911600 M	11•16	165*321	. 170
011700 K	11.21.51	165°391 . •	140
011800 H	11.571	145*381	300
011900 M	11.151	165•31'	780 •
012000 M	11•18'	165*231	160
012400 M	11.18.51	164•221	160
050100 M	11-19.51	163*21' -	145
020800 M	11.25.41	162-31,-21	134
021200 M	11.24.21	162.22.67	106.
021600 M	11.24.21	162°22,6°	36
022000 M	11.24	162*33'	• 30
022L00 M	11.221	163*34*	27
030400 M	11.501	164.351	25
030800 M	11.301	165*321	22
040800 M	11.321	165*31.5'	14
050800 M	11•321	165931,51	9
060800 N	11.321	165-31.5'	6
070800 N	11.321	165*31,5*	14 9 6 4 3
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ENCL (1) TO ENCL (4)

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Location WNRC

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Folder TARTALLMENT CHE-CTG 33 HISTORY-15 NOV. 1800 U. S. S. BAIRONO (CVE-115) Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California

EO: TELM: rd CVE115/M3-4 Ser: 008

7 March 1954

Pron: Commanding Officer

To: Via:

Chief of Naval Operations (1) Commander Task Group 7.3

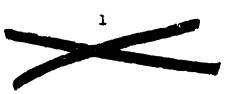
(2) Commander Joint Task Force SEVEN

Subj: U.S.S. BAIROKO (CVE-115); radiological contamination of

1. About 0800-M on 1 March 195% this ship received a heavy fall-out of contamin ted coral particles following the detonation of an atomic device on Bikini Atall. At the time of the Tall-out the ship was thirty-one (31) miles bearing 133°T from the shot site. The BAIROKO was in the process of launching five (5) helicopters at the time the fall-out was received and the wash-down equipment was layed out in the catwalks. One helicopter was in the air but was immediately recalled and landed. The first warning of fall-out was the report of approx- # intely one (1) roentgen per how on the flight deck. The order to set Material first indication of fall-out and all ventilation. including ventilation to the engine room spaces was shut down and remained secured for approximately two (2) hours. This prevented contamination of real consequence of any spaces below the hangar deck, the engineering spaces rising to o only eight (A) milli roentgens per hour, gamma only. The wash-down equipment was turned on as soon as Condition AHE had been set but proved to provide an insufficient volume of water to handle the heavy fall-out of contaminated coral sand deposited on the flight deck, catualks, island structure, forecastle and funtail. Operation of the wash-down equipment was continued for approximately two (2) hours and then secured. Monitoring of the flight deck at this time gave restings as high as five (5) roomigens per hour in many of the cross deck guitters and a high of twenty-five (25) reentgens per hour was recorded in the flight dick drain on the starboard side aft. Fire hoses were then broken out and used to washdown the exposed areas for the remainder of the day. The fire hoses proved to be much superior in washing away the comparatively large particles of cornl sand which had been received and it was possible to reduce the flight deck count to approximately two-hurdred (200) milli roentgens per hour, grown only, or less by 1600-H.

?. A second fall-out was received starting at about 1600-M. This fallout was composed of very fine particles and increased the count on the flight deck and tridge to between two-hundred (200) and four-hundred (400) milli reentgens per nour, garma only. The fire roses were again used on the flight deck, forecastle and funtail and tridge structure until about 1845-M whom the Task Unit 7.1 radioinsterl personnel recommended sending all personnel who could be spared below dicks because of the possibility of inhaling the extremely fine particles into t'e lungs. Ne further decentarination measures were taken on I March 1954.





ENCL (2) TO ENCL (4)

3. The Deliver of March 1954, the skip was completely mentioned and the flight deckined bridge structure indicated from one-hundred (100) to two-hundred-twenty (20) willisteentgene per hour, game only. The hanges deck and rooms on the deck below the flight deck indicated from thirty (30) to fifty (50) milli roentgene per hour, game only. Decontamination efforts were commended insediately after monitoring was completed and wore carried on all day 2 March 1954. The flight deck was washed down several times using high pressure hoses, working parallel to the planking. The first wesh-down resulted in an average reduction of 40-50 milli roentgens per hour, game only. This was followed by scrubbing with a detergent scap solution and salt water ringe, using high pressure fire hoses. The intensity on the flight deck was reduced below fifty (50) milli roentgens per hour, game only, except in a few scattered spaces, following repeated applications of this method. The average beta plus game reading on the flight deck before decontamination was one (1), r e p. The decontamination efforts utilised reduced this figure by at least 505 according to calculations of the Many Radiological Decontamination Laboratory representatives.

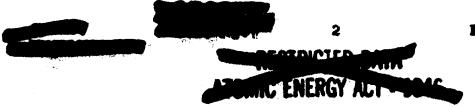
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A. A check on representative film badges of flight deck and other exposed perconnel indicates that they received an average of from two (2) to three (3) rossigns total dose up to noon 2 March 1954. I consider that as a result of the decontamination measures taken the radiation level has been reduced to the point that the ship is entirely safe for continued occupancy by all personnel on board. I recumend that the BAIRORO continue with the operations in progress in preparation for the remainder of the tests.

5. A detailed report of the decontamination operations will be submitted at a. later date.

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ENCL (2) TO ENCL (4)