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HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

J-3/ 903 X 729.3

11 AUG 1953

Dr. John C. Bugher
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine
Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

(497)

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Dear Dr. Bugher:

I was happy to receive your letter of July 31 and I note with interest the proposed rad-safe monitoring plan outlined by Mr. Merrill Eisenbud. We will be very glad to have Mr. Eisenbud with us during CASTLE and I can assure you that we will render him every possible service. I will ask my staff to contact him at a later date to get the necessary required administrative information such as date of departure from United States, etc.

In further reply to your inquiry, Colonel William S. Cowart, Jr., who is my Operations Officer, is the senior member of my staff who will be concerned with Radsafe Operations. Lt Colonel Richard A. House and Lt Colonel A. E. Cowan will assist Colonel Cowart in this matter. Any of these officers will be glad to consult with you at any time on problems which may arise with regard to your program.

I understand that you have seen a copy of the recent letter which was forwarded from my headquarters to CINCPAC explaining in general terms our Radsafe Plan of Operations. I am inclosing a copy for your information and will inform you when a reply from CINCPAC is received.

Sincerely yours,

P. W. Clarkson

P. W. CLARKSON
Major General, USA
Commander

Clarkson
Br 15-5

1 Incl
Ltr, CJTF SEVEN to
CINCPACFLT, Subj:
Radiological Hazards in
the Marshall Is Area During
Opn CASTLE, dtd 30 Jul 53

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30 July 1953

SUBJECT: Radiological Hazards in the Marshall Islands Area During
Operation CASTLE

TO: Commander in Chief
U. S. Pacific Fleet
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

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1. References:

a. Report, JTF Log No R-2166 (SECRET-RD), "Radioactive Debris from Operation IVY," New York Operations Office, AEC, NYO-4522, dated 28 April 1953.

b. Discussions between Commander Joseph L. Hall, this headquarters and Captain Charles B. Martell during February 1953.

2. Reference la presents basic information relative to the radiological hazards introduced into the Pacific Area as a result of Operation IVY. Reference lb involved a discussion on behalf of the cognizant technical section of this headquarters relative to the desirability and need on Operation CASTLE for atomic cloud tracking outside the immediate danger area, sampling of drinking water on distant atolls and evacuation of native populations.

3. As a result of the discussions indicated in reference lb and relying on the substantial radiological documentation of reference la, this headquarters does not plan to mount special efforts in support of the above listed safety measures during Operation CASTLE. It appears that it would be unrealistic to assume health hazards of a magnitude conjectured or anticipated during the planning for Operation IVY. In addition, economy of forces and equipment, especially in view of the recent reductions in fiscal year 1954 service budgets, dictate a policy of austerity in all phases of the operation. As a consequence, all CASTLE Operations have been reduced except where positive evidence indicates a reasonable need for a major effort.

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SUBJECT: Radiological Hazards in the Marshall Islands Area During Operation CASTLE

4. Although the items in question are not programmed as special operations during CASTLE, certain other aspects of the radiological safety plan do provide a reasonable and safe compromise. Specifically, these are as follows:

a. Reference cloud tracking, an effort will be made to determine information relative to the forecasting of heavy secondary fall-out on the shot site. This will be accomplished by a small number of WB-29 flights up-wind from the shot site to a distance of approximately 600 miles. Since the up-wind direction will, in general, be toward the populated atolls, minor modifications in aircraft tracks should provide sufficient information on conditions in those areas. Also, certain specified aircraft operating in the area of the tests after shot time will be in positions to provide reasonable indications of actual cloud movements. In addition, as on Operation IVY, the Task Force Commander will issue pre-shot forecasts of cloud trajectories and fall-out areas and will continue such advisories with post-shot analyses of the sources of information available.

b. Reference drinking water sampling at distant atolls, existing equipment could, on a limited basis, be diverted to such a post-shot effort in the event cogent and compelling reasons arose requiring such action. Past experience indicates, however, that such action is necessary only under extreme conditions.

c. Reference evacuation of native populations, no task force equipment will be available for such an operation. Consideration of populated islands will, however, be one of the major factors in the Commander's decision to shoot, and will be considered in its relation to forecast winds and fall-out predictions.

5. This command is constantly faced with compromise between the necessity for certain efforts and the limitations of forces and equipment available to accomplish objectives. Your comments or suggestions in consonance with the above are requested in order that task force planning may be realistic and mutually agreeable to all concerned.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ROBERT H. CUSHING
Colonel USA
Actg Chief of Staff

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