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March 31, 1953

Chief of Naval Operations
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is in answer to your letter of 5 January 1953, OP-365/
CJL, Ser: 00582P36, subject: "Danger Area for Operation
CASTLE".

As you have recommended, the Atomic Energy Commission will request the Department of State to inform the United Nations Security Council that Bikini and its territorial waters constitute a closed area. We now believe it desirable, however, to withhold this request until a more appropriate later time. Until this action is taken, and the information on Atomic Energy Commission activities at Bikini is officially released by collateral action, information on these activities in general is classified as Restricted, Security Information. Specific questions, of course, may bear higher or lower classifications.

As to establishment of a Danger Area around Bikini, at the time when it is decided to proceed with the closure of the territorial waters, we will inform you of that fact and request you then act to institute the Danger Area.

Meanwhile, however, we would like to reach an agreement as to the size of the Danger Area so that action may proceed expeditiously when requested. It is therefore recommended that the eastern boundary of the Danger Area outlined by CINCPAC be moved westward from 166°28' to 166°16' east longitude so as to exclude Ailingnae Island. Exclusion of this island from the danger area has been strongly urged by the Trust Territory Government and the Department of the Interior because its use is essential to the subsistence of the Rongelap natives. Otherwise we concur with the proposed dimensions of the Danger Area and the actions you propose.

DOE ARCHIVES

We would appreciate your comments on this recommended change.

Sincerely yours,

M. W. Boyer
General Manager

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AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY: D. R. GILSON, DATE 2-19-94

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