WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS

ARMED FORCES SPECIAL WEAPONS PROJECT

P. O. BOX 2610

WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

20 June 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION:

Via:

Military Liaison Committee

Subject: Atomic Energy Commission Support for Scientific Resurvey of Bikini Atoll.

- 1. At the joint meeting of AEC and MLC on 18 June, 1947 the question of technical support by the Atomic Energy Commission of the Scientific Resurvey of Bikini Atoll was discussed. The question left unresolved related to the necessity for radio chemical measurements to be performed on samples in the field. In previous discussion it had been pointed out that radio chemical laboratories in the United States, for example, Berkeley, Los Alamos, and Oak Riage, would naturally be equipped to perform much more thorough analyses of samples shipped back from Bikini. Thus it was reasoned that the principal scientific need at Bikini would be in connection with selection of significant samples.
- 2. It was agreed in the joint meeting of 18 June that further discussion with scientific groups involved in the Bikini resurvey would be conducted to determine the justification for radio chemical analyses in the field. These discussions have been held. The compelling reason for being able to perform radio chemical analyses at Bikini is that without such analyses there will be essentially random sampling, whereas with radio chemistry available the sampling will be direct and collection of significant samples will be practically assured.
- 5. In view of the above, it is requested that the Atomic Energy Commission include in its support of the Scientific Resurvey of Bikini Atoll support of the radio chemical analysis to be performed at Bikini to the extent of making available up to six qualified technical personnel for this purpose.

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W. S. PARSONS
Deputy Chief
Armed Forces Special Weapons Project

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MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE

TO THE

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 1814, WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on AFSWP 1tr 20 June 1947 to AEC

20 June 1947

From:

Acting Chairman, Military Liaison Committee

To:

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

1. Forwarded, concurring in the discussion and request of the basic letter.

T. A. SOLBERG Rear Admiral, U.S.N

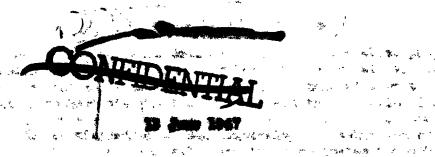
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MANAGOR TO, No. Lilienthal

Dr. Backer

b. Pile

Mr. Strauss

Mr. Harmack

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Subjects - Bikini Scientific Re-curvey under Bury Annatone

The following activional information was developed today. Dr. Stafford L. Barren informed me of the following conversations with Commander Revelle and it. Commander Guilfillan.

Drs. Overstreet and Janobson will not be forced to accept assignments on the Bikini mission against their best indepent and desires in the matter. By recommendation in the earlier memorandum dated 10 June govering these two men appears to be a fair somerador.

Dr. Warren telephoned Dr. Karl L. Horgan, of Homeanto Clinton Laberatory at Oak Ridge in the presence of Lt. Commander Culifilian and ascertained that Dr. Horgan could release three non from the laboratory for the Bikini mission. The nen are Dr. Forest Hestern, PhD in Physics, Dr. John Roberson, The in Physics, and Ralph Pirminhae, E.S. in Chemistry (an instrument man). All three sen are in the section headed by Dr. Morgan at the Clinton laboratories. Br. Nergan indicated that they may be able to berrow enough reserving equipment and accessories to take with them to Dikini to so the job desired by the Mavy. However, exact information on the latter point won't be known until they board the ship.

Dr. Rarran also indicated that Dr. Richard Footer, a fish biologist at Eanford concerned with the fish program at that lugation and on the contractor's payrell (GE), equit and should be added to the University of Hashington group (Dr. Donaldson).

so Dr. Benklikent's group consisting of about ten people from the University of Machineton would go to study plant life and fish bislogy.

Dr. Harren indicated that Esvello and Cullfillen would use the three men from Clinton imboratories to perform plutonium and fincion products chamistry by partitioning the complex with chamical asymmetries, take measurements with the counter equipment, and establish the ratio between the product and fission products while at Bikind. It was expected to do all times things on beard the ship in the laboratory space provided.



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In the event the Consistion decides to agree to the above program, it will be necessary for the writer to contact Dr. Norgan at Oak Ridge for the release of the three mass that longition (this will be through Valter Hilliams), contact the plant separtifications through Colonel Clarks at Shaford for the pulsage of Dr. Paster, the also authorise Colonel Clarks to arrange for the participation of the University of Maskington group. Seth Drs. Overstreet and Jacobson will need to be contacted through Dr. Underhill and our representative at the University at Berkeley.

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