

~~SECRET~~

This document consists of 3 pages. No. 3 of 1 copies. Serial A

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ 1/1991

Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields, USA, Director of Military Application, AEC, Washington, D. C.

Carroll L. Tyler, Manager, SFOO

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
GEORGE P. KRAKER

AUG 27 1952

051

Castle  
copy 3 A, 3 pgs.

SELECTION OF ALTERNATE SITE FOR CASTLE

SYMBOL: 7-6

~~THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C. SECS. 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.~~

Reference is made to the following:

1. Memorandum dated July 1 from Colonel Schlatter to Colonel Hartford, subject as above, symbol: MATA:RPC;
2. Letter dated June 11 from Dr. Graves to General Clarkson, symbol: J-12121;
3. Holmes & Narver report on Auxiliary Proving Grounds in the Marshall Islands for the Atomic Energy Commission, dated August 1, 1952.

The possible requirement of an additional site for performance of part of Operation Castle was first considered in connection with LASL planning, as indicated in Dr. Graves' letter. At the conference in this office on August 7, participated in by representatives of your office, LASL, and UCRL, it was concluded that LASL would probably not require any area away from Eniwetok for their portion of Castle. However, with the program proposed by UCRL, added to the previously-mentioned LASL program, it is obvious that it will be impossible to conduct Operation Castle in its presently contemplated form without additional test areas.

Planning for the operation after Castle, in which consideration is being given by LASL for one thermonuclear test and by UCRL for two thermonuclear tests, makes the requirement for additional real estate even greater. We can only conclude, therefore, that action is necessary to provide additional sites for future operations at the Pacific Proving Grounds.

As to location, we refer to the letter of June 2 from James P. Davis, of the Department of Interior, to Mr. Dean. Dr. Graves, on a recent trip to Eniwetok, flew over the areas in the Marshall Islands mentioned

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1. DATE OF REVIEW: 6-20-94
2. AUTHORITY: 105 USC 552
3. CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
4. REVIEWER: W. M. Mathys
5. DATE OF REVIEW: 6/20/94
6. AUTHORITY: 105 USC 552
7. NAME: [Signature]

This document contains restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Unauthorized disclosure is prohibited by Federal and Criminal Laws.

~~SECRET~~

3473

LOS ALAMOS



01761815

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

~~SECRET~~

Gen. Fields

-2-

by Mr. Davis as being possible alternates for Bikini. He reports that the land areas available on Taka and Bika appear to be too limited to merit further consideration. The land area on Taongi was reported to appear promising, but the lack of a channel into the lagoon, as well as the large number of coral heads in the lagoon, would make operation very difficult. In addition, it does not appear possible to construct a sufficiently long airstrip to provide for inter-atoll airlift to support an operation.

The Atoll of Rongerik is quite close to Rongelap and is upwind from it. Hence, any large-scale detonations at Rongerik would almost certainly require evacuation of natives from Rongelap and might even contaminate that area so as to restrict return of the Rongelap people. In addition, Rongerik is near the center of the Marshall group and use of this location might endanger populations of other islands or atolls.

The suggested locations in the Caroline Islands and the Marianas Islands were not considered seriously, since their distance from Eniwetok is so great. To utilize any of these islands, it would be necessary to set up almost a duplication of the Eniwetok facilities and would probably tend to segregate activities into two more or less independent operations. From a standpoint of unity of operation, such an arrangement is not considered acceptable.

We note in the memorandum of April 17 from Mr. Dean to Mr. Boyer that Senator Thomas, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Sady had reported to Mr. Dean the sad plight of the natives of Bikini who were transferred to Kili. Their report would indicate that the people on Kili are unable to sustain themselves and are quite unhappy with their present arrangement. This report is at variance with information furnished Dr. Graves by Naval personnel at CINCPAC. Their report is that the Bikini people at Kili are quite content with their present location and, in fact, "never had it better." With the differences of opinion expressed from two different sources, it would appear that a resident investigation, as suggested by the Department of Interior, might be necessary to actually determine what the conditions at Kili are. Review of the various phases of this problem leads to the following conclusions:

1. Land areas in addition to Eniwetok will be required for future test operations in the Pacific.

2. Since Bikini is not inhabited now and is most suitable as to land area and location for use as an addition to the Pacific Proving Grounds, we recommend that its availability be retained.

~~SECRET~~

3474

~~SECRET~~

Gen. Fields

-3-

3. We recommend that the Department of Interior be informed that Bikini natives can never return to that atoll. If it is verified that Bikini people are dissatisfied at Kili and cannot sustain themselves there and must be moved to another location, it is suggested that a new home be found for that group rather than to consider returning them to Bikini and removing another group of people from another atoll.

4. This office has not budgeted - and we do not feel it is our responsibility - any funds for further relocation of the Bikini people. If the Department of Interior is convinced that removal of these people from Kili and relocation to Bikini or any other atoll is necessary, we feel that this should be budgeted by that Department. AEC should provide whatever support Interior would require in developing the justification for this expenditure.

Regarding the possible use of Bikini, reference is made to my letter of August 21, subject: "NECESSITY FOR BEGINNING WORK AT BIKINI ATOLL." If Bikini is to be used for Operation Castle and that operation is to be held in the Fall of 1953, as presently scheduled, it will be mandatory that construction work at Bikini begin shortly, as outlined in the referenced memorandum.

We will appreciate your taking appropriate action and informing this office of developments as they occur, in order that planning for the initiation work at Bikini may be kept current.

CC: Dr. Graves, J-Div, LASL  
Spain, Fld Mgr, Eniwetok FO

RECEIVED  
AUG 28 1953  
RECORDS  
AUG 28 1953  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

3475

01701815