

635
Castle

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CASTLE SHOTS

H-94

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Together with John Servis and the Test Section of Group H-6, I have given a good deal of thought to some of the unpleasant possibilities which might arise from one or more of the shots in Operation Castle. We are presently concerned with situations which might arise following detonations off the island of Acmoen. My feelings are not based on detailed studies nor should they be classed entirely as hunches. I feel quite certain that there exists a possibility of serious contamination on Eniwetok following one or more of the shots off Acmoen. This contamination could result either from fall-out or from highly contaminated water washing up on the beach. I feel that the avoidance of such contamination will be more a matter of luck than good management. Such contamination could conceivably bring operations on Eniwetok to a complete halt for a matter of days or even weeks.

I do not wish you to think that I believe that such a situation is a probability; I regard it as only a possibility. I do, however, feel it highly advisable to plan operations in such a way that one of the Eniwetok shots might be substituted for one on Bikini in order to avoid excessive delay in which people could do nothing but kill time. I feel that such an alternate plan should be available if needed.

It is highly probable that you have already considered this possibility. My feelings in this matter are shared by John Servis and also by Bill Kennedy and Pat Schiavone of the Test Section of Group H-6.

T. L. Shipman, M.D.

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