

Dr. Paul Pearson

May 22, 1960

L. S. Tuttle

BIKINI, ERIWETOK SURVEYS BY LAUREN DONALDSON

In my conversations with Dr. Donaldson throughout the day of May 12, 1960, I learned that contrary to previous reports, Donaldson is extremely anxious to make the Eriwetok surveys in 1960, and in 1961 following the shots. He has more or less concluded, as we have, that the data to be obtained at Bikini in the future are not worth the time and money which would be involved in making the surveys on an annual basis. He was amenable to the suggestion that after this year Bikini should be resurveyed at five-year intervals.

Requirements for the 1960 Survey

Donaldson hopes to be in the Pacific late in July or early in August. He expects to spend two weeks at Eriwetok. The first week would be spent collecting specimens for subsequent analysis, and the second week for laying out and identifying areas to be studied in connection with the tests. He believes that the work at Bikini could be completed in one week, and could be done in connection with the regular Navy patrol by arrangements with the local commander at Kwajalein. The 1960 survey would require transportation for 6 or 7 people by MATS and limited shore facilities and quarters at Eriwetok or Japan. For the Eriwetok work he would need an LCH or LEV-P (these are 82-foot craft). I strongly recommended that during the week at Bikini he attempt to collect microplankton in amounts sufficient to permit subsequent fission product and plutonium analysis. This would require an additional small craft or "skiff" to make the plankton tows.

Requirements for 1961 Survey

The services of a laboratory ship of the LSI-L type similar to No. 1091 used in the previous surveys would be required. The equipment for converting a LSI for use as a laboratory ship is stored at Pearl Harbor under Lt. Comdr. George B. Grier.

Additional Notes

Donaldson recognizes the need for fission product analysis on the collected material. He has been depending upon UCLA and Hanford for his analyses, but this arrangement is not entirely satisfactory. Donaldson is currently attempting to engage a partially trained radiochemist and expects to set up plutonium assay procedures at the Washington laboratory. Joe Hamilton agreed to take on any candidate of

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Bikini
Eriwetok

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