

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

President Robert Gordon Sproul
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear President Sproul:

I wish to endorse the request of the Secretary of the Navy that Professors R. L. Overstreet and Louis Jacobson participate in the Bikini resurvey being undertaken by the Navy Department during the coming summer. As you know, the possible biological effects of radioactivity from nuclear fission products are of great concern to the Atomic Energy Commission, not only as they directly involve problems of human physiology but also in connection with possible effects on agriculture and fisheries. The enormous amounts of fission products deposited on the reefs and in the waters of Bikini Atoll as a result of the underwater burst last summer, and the very large accumulations of these materials by plants and animals, make this area an important and unique field experiment station for radiobiological problems of plant nutrition and soil chemistry.

Because of their special experience and mature competence, Professors Overstreet and Jacobson are widely recognized as leaders in these fields. It is believed that their participation in the expedition will insure the successful accomplishment of its most important objectives and that without them great difficulty may be experienced in attaining these objectives. I therefore strongly urge that you authorize the diversion of the time and energies of these scientists and whatever assistants they may desire from their present important work so that they may take part in the expedition.

Sincerely yours,

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