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The contamination with fission products, as the result of the atomic bomb detonations, over, under or near the water at Bikini and Eniwetok atolls has created very complicated problems of evaluation. Each of the five detonations in these areas pose separate problems, but studies of all five bursts contribute to a better understanding of the problem.

The waters about Bikini contain only trace quantities of radiation. The great mass of sludge from the target center (approximately 500,000 tons) remains moderately active. From the target area the radiation spreads by the biotic form about the atoll where it is absorbed and retained. Some "migration" of radiation has taken place up onto the islands where it is picked up by the plants. Such translocated fission products onto the land are of a low order of intensity, about three to four times the natural background.

The shot islands at Eniwetok, and the plants and animals on the shot islands contain radioactive fission products. Some migration of the plants is observable. The plants and animals in the lagoon adjacent to the shot islands have absorbed radioactive products. Distribution of the active wastes about the Eniwetok Lagoon is not uniform as is the case at Bikini but concentrated adjacent to the shot islands.

The effect of mixed fission product contamination of biotic system is being continued both in the test areas and in the laboratories in this country.

From
NMP-N

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PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF THE FIELD PROGRAM

1. Following the tremendous interest shown during 1956, studies were initiated to evaluate the distribution of the fission products in the biotic systems of the area.
2. As the continuation of the work progress as indicated in the Report of 1956, further following a pattern similar to the 1956 studies, two experiments to include biotests.
3. The radiobiology studies followed in general three (3) main lines of attack:
 - a. Evaluation of the distribution of fission products biochemically about the cells.
 - b. The absorption of fission products by the plants and animals from the "Laguna Verde" area.
 - c. The selective concentration of fission products by the various organs and tissues.
4. The effect of radiation contamination upon the plants and animals, both of necessity, have reserved for future studies in the field and in the Radio Isotope Laboratories.
5. As a part of the continuity of the past studies, and to form a preliminary base of operations for studies following the contemplated testing program it is proposed that a Limited Field Party (six (6) men) spend ten days in the field at intervals during August or September.
6. During the last program of 1956, it is proposed that two (2) radiobiologists from the Applied Radiation Laboratory, University of Washington, go in attendance to act as observers and aid in collecting data on the immediate effect of the detonations on the local fauna and flora. The data collected would be basic and practical to the nuclear program.
7. Immediately following the limited program, the major portion of the radiation worker group would be activated.
8. The immediate radiation protection area of interest to the Committee to AEC in this in the international protection by previous testing programs.
9. It is proposed that a group of specialists (DR) be assigned the responsibility of carrying on this work.
10. To conduct the field work following the testing it would be essential to have available a small metal vessel, preferably the LSI (L) 1952.

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MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY

By
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11. Follow up studies at yearly intervals are essential to measure the recovery rate of damaged areas and further distribution of fission products.
12. The active support of the A.R.C. and the Navy is essential to the execution of the program.

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