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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY
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Los Alamos, New Mexico
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12/21

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW-DATE: 6-22-99	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: OAC OAC OADD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: W. M. Williams	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW-DATE: 6-22-99	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: OAC	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: R.R. Schmidt	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

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Maj. Gen. P. W. Clarkson
Commander
Joint Task Force 132
Washington 25, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW-DATE: 8-2-99	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: OAC OAC OADD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: W. M. Williams	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW-DATE: 5/12/99	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: OAC	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: R.R. Schmidt	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY):

Dear General Clarkson:

I received your letter of 26 May 1952 and am glad to tell you that I have also been thinking of the desirability of supplementing the Eniwetok facilities with those of a neighboring atoll. In particular, I have been considering Bikini Atoll.

I have not considered Ujulang, even though it is closer to Eniwetok, because the available land area in that atoll seems insufficient to me to warrant its development even though it could conceivably be sufficient for a portion of Operation Castle.

It is clear that [redacted] on Eniwetok would again require evacuation of that atoll, however, my reasons for looking at Bikini as an operational site are not so much based on logistic worries as on the following considerations: First, it is quite possible that radiological conditions may render Eniwetok unusable for Operation Castle and we will not know until some months after Operation Ivy; second, Operation Castle may involve as many as three shots of the order of 50 KT in addition to a larger shot and available target areas on Eniwetok are not suitable for such a program; third, the atoll of Eniwetok represents an important asset to the AEC and to the country and we will risk its loss to us if we continue to use up its real estate for tests such as [redacted]; fourth, the thermonuclear program may easily dictate a greater frequency of diagnostic shots than can be accommodated by the Eniwetok real estate.

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I am sure you recognize that any such plan will alleviate some logistic problems by creating new ones. It is not clear to me at this time whether the overall task will be simplified or complicated. Maintenance facilities for large aircraft do not exist on Eniwetok; parking space for such planes is minimal and may be insufficient; housing and utilities

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11 June 1952

will impose a limitation on the population of Eniwetok that may be unacceptable; liaison services between atolls by C-45's, C-47's, P-4's, and other planes, as well as by ship, will be required; intra-atoll service by C-45's or similar planes and small boats will be required; ships will be required at both locations; communications must be provided; even with this plan we will require a capability for emergency evacuation.

However, I believe a study of such a plan is warranted. I have discussed this problem with Tyler and Bradbury and both have concurred in my getting wheels in motion to determine the problems involved in such a plan.

I have asked Paul Spain to send an initial reconnaissance party of Holmes and Harver personnel to Bikini to determine what work would be required to make Bikini available to us for Operation Castle, and to provide a basis for a preliminary cost estimate for that work. I propose to ask Mr. Hurriss to prepare a tentative operation plan on the basis of Bikini Atoll as the site for the large shot and Eniwetok as a base of operations as well as the site for any smaller shots. I also propose to discuss the Rad-Safe problem with Russ Hayward when I see him next week. It is clear that after Operation Ivy our knowledge of radiological hazards will be greater and many of our questions on this score should be answered.

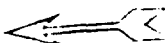
I will keep you informed of developments in this connection as they occur.

Very truly yours,

ALVIN C. GRAVES
Scientific Director

ACG:rvw

Distribution:

- Copy 1 - General Clarkson
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