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August 6, 1952

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John C. Bugher, M.D., Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

CONVERSATIONS WITH CDR. MAYNARD

SYMBOL: HM:JCB

In a series of conversations with Cdr. Maynard, RadSaf officer of Task Force 132, several arrangements have been made. The New York Operations Office Health and Safety Laboratory will undertake the construction of 4 survey gamma measuring and recording devices for use in Polynesia. These will have a range of four decades which may be chosen between .05 milliroentgens per hour and about 500 roentgens per hour. The number is limited by the availability of the special crystals from the Harshaw Company. This equipment has been developed for survey purposes on behalf of the Raw Materials Division and is capable of detecting exposed uranium from a plane operating at 70 miles per hour and several hundred feet above the surface of the ground. It is thought that with this degree of resolution the equipment may be used at an airspeed of about 150 m.p.h. for delineation of contaminated areas of atolls in the Pacific with a recorded measurement of the level of ground contamination. The performance of the equipment will be verified by a sweep over contaminated regions of the Nevada Test Site prior to transportation to the Pacific.

By the use of these survey instruments it will be possible to acquire quantitative information relative to fallout on atolls and islands where the limits of personnel and the inaccessibility of the terrain make it impractical to attempt to set up fixed stations or even to attempt land operations by survey parties.

For function in locations where manned stations will be inadvisable, the New York Laboratory will also prepare 12 radiation trigger devices which will set off an air sampler whenever radiation reaches the station. These will then run for a pre-determined time from a storage battery supply, and specimens will be recovered at the earliest opportunity for analysis.

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Memo to Files [redacted] August 6, 1952

The photodosimetry of IVY is an important problem which must be put underway in the near future. Films have been ordered, but the technique of their use and the mode of interpretation have not been decided upon yet. A conference on photodosimetry is, therefore, being called, sponsored by the Biophysics and Radiation Instruments Branches, for the latter part of this month. This will be the first of what will probably be a series of special conferences looking toward the greater unification of technique, standards of calibration, and interpretation of film badge results. It is hoped that eventually a reasonable degree of unanimity may be achieved both with respect to plant operation and the conduct of photodosimetry in weapons tests.

BUGHER/fd

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