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John C. Augher, M.D., Director
Division of History and Medicine

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CONVERSATION AT SANTA MONICA WITH DR. HAROLD PLANK

Dr. Plank told me that in connection with Operation CASTLE, since there are six detonations in the program there will be more exposures of sample collecting personnel than for IVY where there were only two such detonations. With the knowledge gained in the previous operation, the limit of radiation exposure need not be set any higher than at that time, but he wished me to know that he now feels it likely that such personnel will in fact receive from 7 to 14 roentgens rather than the average of about 3 which was the IVY experience. I told him that as far as these criteria are concerned, the decision to permit a pilot to receive more than the usual operational criteria was essentially that of Command responsibility, and that the limits established in IVY were not re-definitions of a safe level or desirable level but indicated our feeling about the maximum above or beyond which the range of Command decision should be limited in this matter.

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