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INFO MEMO 48-90

July 13, 1948

COPY NO. 16

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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Memorandum for Information

R

RADIOBIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BIKINI  
AND ENIWETOK LAGOONS

Note by the Secretary

1. Attached is a memorandum by Dr. John Z. Bowers, Biology and Medicine, concerning a survey by Dr. Lauren R. Donaldson of the University of Washington of the effect of atomic explosion on marine life in the Bikini and Eniwetok Lagoons.

2. Also attached are a memorandum of June 21, 1948 from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations concerning arrangements provided by the Navy Department for Dr. Donaldson's survey, and the reply of June 24, by the Director of Biology and Medicine.

REPOSITORY NARA/College Park  
COLLECTION RG 326 46-51 Secretary  
BOX NO. 67 (NNS-326-93-007)  
FOLDER 800.92 Bikini-Lowrey  
(6-4-47)

ROY B. SNAPP  
Secretary

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as [REDACTED]  
(Insert proper classification)

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WITH ATTACHMENTS/ENCL

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY		REVIEW
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY:		NUMBER(S)
ANS: NIS 611		TO:
REVIEWER (ADD): 8-8-94		IFIED INFO
NAME: J. D. [Signature]		CLASSIFICATION CONCERNS
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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

RADIOBIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF BIKINI LAGOON

Memorandum from the Division of Biology and Medicine

For some time, Dr. Lauren R. Donaldson, Head of the Department of Applied Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, has been studying the effect of water-borne radioactive materials on marine life. This study has included the effects of effluent liquid wastes at Hanford on salmon and trout and the tolerance of these fish to other forms of radiation. A considerable amount of valuable information has been obtained from these studies.

Dr. Donaldson has been interested in the effects of an atomic explosion on the marine life in exposed waters and, accordingly, carried out an exhaustive survey at Bikini the summer of 1947. It was evident that there was considerable concentration of the radioactive materials by certain forms of marine life. It is felt that a follow-up survey at Bikini is strongly indicated with a survey of Eniwetok Atoll. This action has been approved by the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine. Accordingly, arrangements have been made through the Division of Military Application for support by the U. S. Navy of this survey and the attached document concerns their activities in developing this survey.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 June 1948

From: The Chief of Naval Operations  
To: The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
Attn: Director, Division of Biology and Medicine  
Director, Division of Military Applications

Subject: Radiobiological Survey of Bikini Lagoon

Reference: (a) AEC Secret ltr BM:SW, dated May 28, 1948.  
(b) AEC Conf ltr BM:JHF, dated June 14, 1948.

1. In compliance with request contained in reference (a), the Navy will support a radiobiological survey of Bikini Lagoon to the extent requested in the basic letter and developed further by informal conference.
2. For purposes of this survey, the survey party is authorized to visit and conduct such surveys as it considers required in Bikini Lagoon and Eniwetok Lagoon.
3. Travel via Military Air Transport Service with a Priority TWO has been authorized from San Francisco to Kwajalein and return. Individual travel orders have been issued for the members of the party and will be in the custody of the Liaison Officer of the party. One thousand pounds of excess freight have been authorized in addition to the personal baggage of the members of the party. It is understood that the Atomic Energy Commission will arrange transportation for all members of the expedition and their gear to the San Francisco area.
4. District Intelligence Officers of the Naval Districts closest to the homes of the civilian members of the party have been authorized to issue identification cards for the expedition, carrying on the face thereof a statement that citizenship has been verified by the Intelligence Officer concerned. To obtain these cards it will be necessary for each member of the party to visit the District Intelligence Officer concerned personally and present at that time evidence of citizenship. Lieutenant J. J. Schmidt, USN, has been ordered on temporary additional duty to report to Washington, D. C., for briefing by the Atomic Energy Commission, and then to act as Liaison Officer for the expedition during the movement to Kwajalein. Such additional liaison or assistance as may be required can be obtained by the head of the expedition from the Island Commander at Kwajalein.
5. For purposes of security, it is understood that only official cameras will accompany the expedition and that all film exposed will be processed under the supervision of the Atomic Energy Commission. It is requested that any news releases concerning the expedition be cleared both by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Director of Public Relations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

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6. The mailing address for the expedition will be c/o Island Commander, Kwajalein, Nav 824, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

7. It is understood that an allocation of \$20,000 has been made to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts to cover extraordinary expenses incurred by the expedition. The cost of travel incurred by any personnel in the Navy assisting in the expedition will be properly chargeable to such an allotment.

8. Your attention is invited to the existing instruction issued to the Commander-in-Chief Pacific and Pacific Fleet which provide: "You will not be responsible for the safety measures adopted to protect members of duly authorized scientific and survey parties from radiological hazards. This responsibility will rest with the senior member of the party."

9. For purposes of facilitating communications, it is requested that the subject expedition be known as the "AEC Donaldson Survey."

10. It is understood that the expedition will consist of following twelve civilian members and no others:

Donaldson, Lauren R.  
White, Asher A.  
Welandar, Arthur D.  
Seymour, Allyn H.  
Tinker, Spencer W.  
Bullock, Theodore H.  
Hollenberg, George J.  
Koch, John J.  
Osborn, Richard H.  
Donaldson, John R.  
Lowman, Frank G.  
Held, Edward D.

11. Early confirmation of the provisions indicated above is requested.

/s/ A. D. STRUBLE  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Operations)

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

June 24, 1948

Chief of Naval Operations  
Room 2063 Navy Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention OP-36

Dear Admiral Denfeld:

The support which will be provided by the Navy for Dr. Lauren R. Donaldson's radiobiological survey of Bikini and Eniwetok Lagoons in July 1948 is greatly appreciated.

The arrangements for this support set forth in the Chief of Naval Operations' letter, Serial 0092P36 dated June 21, 1948 are confirmed as being entirely satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

Shields Warren, M.D.  
Director, Division of  
Biology and Medicine

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By [REDACTED]  
By [REDACTED]

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12-7-48  
P.S.D.