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HEADQUARTERS  
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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Dr. Alvin C. Graves  
Scientific Director, JTF SEVEN  
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Graves:

Inclosed is a copy of my report on the recent trip I took to the Forward Area and the Far East in the company of Lt Col Slater and Major Robinson of the Air Weather Service. I feel that you will be interested in several of the items discussed. If you have any comments, I would certainly appreciate receiving them.

In line with our conversation on 28 October, I will advise you of the results of my talks with Mr. Eisenbud regarding the use of the constant altitude balloons for cloud tracking. It appears we may have a workable and usable system which is reasonable in cost.

I certainly enjoyed the visit with you on Wednesday night and hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

*Benny*  
C. D. BONNOT  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Weather Branch

1 Incl:  
Report on Trip  
to Forward Area

WITH ATTACHMENTS/ENCL

dec 10 1953

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
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OTHER (SPECIFY):

DATE: 12/3/53  
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Report on Trip to Forward Area

AC of S, J-3

Chief, Weather Branch

20 Oct 1953

1. INSTALLATIONS VISITED:

- USARPAC
- CINCPAC
- Detachment 1, AF Cambridge Research Center, Wheeler AFB
- High Commissioner Trust Territories Islands of the Pacific, Honolulu
- 57th Strat Recon Squadron, Hickam AFB
- U.S. Weather Bureau, Honolulu
- Naval Station, Kwajalein
- Rongerik Atoll
- Eniwetok Island
- Parry Island
- Bikini Atoll
- AF Typhoon Warning Center, Anderson AFB, Guam
- 54th Strat Recon Squadron, " " "
- 2143rd Air Weather Wing, Tokyo

LOS ALAMOS  
  
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2. PURPOSE:

To coordinate preparations for CASTLE weather service, to ascertain if adequate progress is being made to set up the CASTLE weather service and to brief various commanders on the weather service requirements and preparations for CASTLE.

3. CONCLUSIONS:

- a. Preparations for CASTLE weather service are progressing extremely well. No major action items are pending at the present time. Almost all items were resolved on-the-spot with individuals concerned.
- b. The undersigned traveled under the authority of TO #138 dated 25 August 1953, and was accompanied by LtCol H. H. Slater and Maj F. F. Robinson. Copies of their trip reports are inclosed. The three of us visited all of the above listed installations in Hawaii, Kwajalein and Eniwetok. Maj Robinson also visited Kusaie, Majuro and Ponape in the line with his desire to survey the conditions at all of the outlying weather islands. LtCol Slater accompanied me on to Guam and Tokyo while Maj Robinson returned to Hickam and the U. S.
- c. Of particular interest was a visit to USARPAC where Dr. C. E. Palmer of Detachment 1, AFCRC, Dr. Graves, Gen Fields, LtCol George H. Duncan, Commander of Detachment 1, AFCRC and the undersigned visited with Gen Clarkson concerning the Pate-Palmer report. It was decided that Dr. Palmer and Dr. Graves would go on record officially as to their feelings regarding the Pate-Palmer Report; Dr. Palmer made it

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**SUBJECT: Report on Trip to Forward Area**

clear that he was the author of only the first two chapters of the report; that he desired to go on record as such, and as well, to state what the several serious editing errors were that appeared in the finished report. Dr. Palmer wrote a memo to Dr. Graves on this matter. Dr. Graves is to follow up on this so as to make it a matter of official record.

d. Weather-wise, the time spent with the people at Detachment 1, AFCRC was the most fruitful. Detailed and comprehensive discussions were had with Dr. Palmer, Col Duncan and other members of the detachment. The complete course of indoctrination of the Weather Central personnel was agreed upon, and it is my feeling that it is an extremely well thought out and comprehensive course. It was concluded by all concerned that due to the fact that all shots were during darkness, prior to day break, it would be unnecessary to perform an upwind special weather reconnaissance flight just prior to each detonation. It was felt that better utilization could be gained by performing the normal routine weather reconnaissance missions of two flights per day throughout the entire period of operations; at least this procedure will be used at first. This was the particular recommendation of Dr. Palmer since he felt that the value to be gained from a reconnaissance mission during the hours of darkness was questionable and dubious.

e. Mr. Frank A. Metcalf, High Commissioner, Trust Territories Islands of the Pacific was visited concerning establishment of our outlying weather stations on islands under his control; he gave us complete and unstinted assistance and cooperation. He was so very cooperative that upon reaching the outlying islands, it was found that there were few problems remaining to be solved, at least coordination-wise.

f. Courtesy visits were paid to Staff Aerologist, CINCPAC, OIC, Fleet Weather Central at Pearl Harbor and Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright, OIC of Honolulu Weather Bureau. Mr. Cartwright is in charge of the presently established Weather Bureau Station at Ponape. He could foresee no problems in again establishing our stations for CASTLE. He did suggest that I visit Dr. Reichelderfer, Chief, U. S. Weather Bureau here in Washington, concerning delineation of responsibilities and disposition of observations during our tenure at Ponape.

g. The 57th Strat Recon Squadron had no major problems to discuss. Reconnaissance tracks to be used during the operation were discussed and decided upon by all concerned. These tracks will be considerably simplified in comparison to those used in previous tests.

h. All personnel at the Naval Station, Kwajalein were most cooperative and helpful. Admiral Clarke and Capt Sooy practically placed all the facilities of their station at our disposal. They furnished transportation to all the outlying islands in a most commendable manner.

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i. The trip to Rongerik Atoll is discussed in Maj Robinson's report. This was a most interesting visit to an uninhabited island.

j. Col Lahti and Col Starkey at Eniwetok were also quite cooperative and helpful. Facilities for the weather central were inspected and found to be adequate. I visited with Mr. Hardison at Parry to find if there were any discrepancies in the weather service being offered to the H&N people. He felt that it was adequate. I also visited Bikini and found the weather service at that location also to be adequate.

k. The assistance required of weather personnel on Guam was obtained. The Typhoon Warning Center will furnish us with certain weather data and the 54th Strat Recon Squadron will assist in their normal routine reconnaissance activities. The Fleet Weather Central at Guam can also help, if they are needed.

l. Col James T. Twaddell, Jr., Cdr 2143rd Air Weather Wing was contacted concerning receipt of analyses and forecasts from the Tokyo Weather Central in the TF Weather Central. These items he agreed upon immediately but there is a problem as to facsimile transmission between Tokyo and Eniwetok. He took this to be a matter for his own solution and consequently relieved us of any further responsibility on this problem.

m. On the return trip through Honolulu, certain of the individuals who were originally visited were again contacted and verbal reports given to them as to what transpired during our visit in the forward area.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That the Chief, U. S. Weather Bureau be contacted concerning the use of Ponape (this has been done and all matters fully resolved, see DF to AC of 3, J-3, subject: "Conference at U.S. Weather Bureau re Trust Territory Weather Stations, dated 8 Oct 1953").

b. That the up-wind special weather reconnaissance flight not be planned and that normal daily reconnaissance be used in lieu thereof.

c. That the facsimile broadcast from Tokyo to Eniwetok be improved (this matter is being resolved in the field by Air Weather Service and AACS personnel).

d. That BAIROKO and CURTISS, as well as the ESTES take certain weather observations during the course of the operation (this matter has been resolved with CTG 7.3 and the requirement is presently in our OpPlan 3-53).

e. That a letter of appreciation be written to Admiral Clarke at Kwajalein expressing the thanks of this headquarters for his cooperation and

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assistance during this visit (A draft letter has been forwarded (through AC of S, J-3) to Gen Clarkson for his signature).

f. That certain key personnel in the Air Weather Service be invited as official observers or visitors during the course of Operation CASTLE at Eniwetok. It is suggested particularly that MajGen W. O. Senter or BrigGen Thomas S. Moorman, Jr., Cdr and Deputy Cdr of the Air Weather Service and Col James T. Twaddell be invited.

g. Many items were discussed and recommendations made concerning them; all were solved on-the-spot with the people concerned.

3 Incls:

1. Itinerary
2. LtCol Slater report on trip to forward area
3. Maj Robinson report on Survey trip to outlying Weather Islands

C. D. BOREST  
LtCol, USAF

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