

Location WNRC

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Folder BRAVO SHOT, OPERATION CASTLE

7 September 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Hanlon

SUBJECT: BRAVO Shot, Operation CASTLE

1. The only critical situation which arose during Operation CASTLE took place after the first detonation. The first shot, known as the BRAVO event, was [redacted] fired 1 March 1954. The radioactive fallout from this detonation necessitated the evacuation of Marshallese natives from their home atolls, upset the fishing industry in Japan, and otherwise generated international complications.

2. As soon as the magnitude of the crisis was appreciated, General Clarkson directed that a memorandum be prepared which would present a factual account of the circumstances which led to the unfortunate situation. A copy of this memorandum for record, signed by General Clarkson and Dr. Graves, dated 12 April 1954, is attached for your information. The memorandum is especially valuable because it was written shortly after the emergency occurred. On the other hand, subsequent study has produced data which is slightly different from that contained in this memorandum. For example, the total dose received by the Rongelap natives is considered to be in excess of 160 R.

3. Only seven copies of this memorandum were prepared. Copies No. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are on file in the headquarters and copy No. 2 was sent to Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory; copies 4, 5 and 6 are earmarked for destruction if no further distribution is deemed necessary. Copy No. 7 has already been destroyed.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED WITH DELETIONS BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

*D. O. Byars*

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Colonel, U. S. Army  
AC of S, J-3

*J. Diaz* 6/19/90  
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