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- 1cc Biophysics Branch

BMP:EVW

JAN 9 1956

Mr. Gerard C. Smith
 Special Assistant to the Secretary
 Department of State
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

As you know, the Atomic Energy Commission accepted the responsibility for periodic surveys of the Marshall Islands in connection with long term studies of the effects of the March 1 detonation of the tests held in the Pacific in the Spring, 1954.

The first of these surveys was conducted in January, 1955 under the joint sponsorship of the Department of the Navy, Bureau of Ships and the Atomic Energy Commission and was made by personnel of the United States Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory. You were apprised of plans for that survey by letter of December 22, 1954.

Arrangements have been completed with the Department of Navy, Bureau of Ships, for the conduct of the second survey during the month of February, 1956. This survey will be made by personnel of the USNRDL in company with Dr. F. R. Fosberg of the U. S. Geological Survey. In addition to the collection of biological specimens and soil samples, it is deemed desirable to obtain urine specimens from the people on the island Utirik in order to determine if human habitation in an environment of low level contamination can result in detectable quantities of radioactive substances in urine.

There is attached for your information a list of atolls to be visited and the estimated survey time to be devoted to each.

Sincerely yours,

K. E. Fields
 General Manager

CLASSIFIED BY DOC
 ON 3/11/73
 BY J. H. [unclear]

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NMB-2

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Attachments:
 List of atolls

OFFICE	BMPA	BMBP	DIRECTOR	IA	AGMR	GEN. MGR.
	<i>EVW</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Atoll</u>	<u>Island</u>	<u>Time Required (days)</u>
Ailinginae	Sifo	1
Rongelap	Rongelap	2 (remain overnight)
	Kabelle	1/2
	Gajan	1/2
Rongerik	Eniwetok	1
Uterik	Uterik	2 (remain overnight)
Likiep	Likiep	1

The survey team will leave the United States about mid-January, 1956. February 1, 1956 has been set as a tentative starting date but, of course, logistic problems and weather conditions may result in minor delays.

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