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January 27, 1958

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HARDTACK - BIOLOGICAL AND OTHER EFFECTS STUDIES

SYMBOL:

BMES:AHS

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By <i>Paul F. Foster</i>	7/10/95
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In reply to Phillip J. Farley's inquiry about "biological and other effects studies which will be conducted in connection with Hardtack", reference is made to the program as outlined on the attached sheets. The objectives and sections I and II of the program are essentially the same as presented to the Division of Military Application on February 19, 1957, in the memorandum, "A Program for Radiobiological Survey of the Eniwetok Test Site". Sections I A and II of the program will be executed by the University of Washington. Assignment of I B, lagoon-atoll surveys in the Palau Saipan area, is yet to be made. Section III, the oceanographic surveys, has been changed from the original plans but the program that is presently contemplated is given on the attached sheets.

The above program is programmatic and is designed to provide information about the contamination of plants and animals in the vicinity of the Eniwetok Test Site. These objectives are quite different from the objectives of the program recommended for future weapons tests by the NAS-NRC Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation on Oceanography and Fisheries. Their recommendation that "---there should be a serious effort to obtain the maximum of purely scientific information about the ocean, the atmosphere, and marine organisms" is not fulfilled by the program for Hardtack. However, between testing programs, some basic research in biology is conducted at Eniwetok in the marine biological laboratory that was established there by the AEC. A few scientists can be accommodated in this Laboratory to work on research of their own choice.

The recommendations of the NAS-NRC Committee are commendable and it is to be hoped that these recommendations can be carried out in the future. To obtain the objectives set forth in the recommendations the NAS-NRC Committee state three steps to be followed: (1) "In the planning stage committees of disinterested scientists should be consulted and their recommendations followed". One such committee was convened in December, 1957 to review the Divisions program in marine biology and oceanography and stands ready to provide service of the sort called for in the above statement. (2) "funds should

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-2-

January 27, 1958

be made available for scientific studies unrelated to the character of the weapons themselves," this is desirable but it is to be recalled that funds for new research for fiscal year 1957-58 are limited to the support of research related to the fallout program (Sunshine). (3) "the recommended scientific program should be supported and carried out independently of the military program rather than on a "not to interfere" basis." All programs of research in the vicinity of the Kniwetok Test Site are dependent upon the military at least to the extent of logistic support. If the execution of a research program is necessary during the time of weapons testing then close cooperation with the military is of prime importance. If a cooperative plan is not feasible then the solution may be the scheduling of a test specifically designed for the basic research scientist to study fundamental problems in oceanography or the other sciences. Research programs that do not have to be carried on during the weapons testing program should be scheduled accordingly.

Japanese oceanographic vessels collected samples and determined the radioactive contamination in the ocean from both Castle and Redwing. Similar collections and determinations can be expected for Hardtack. (In fact the Japanese effort in number of scientists and number and quality of research vessels will far surpass our efforts.) In the past we have exchanged data with the Japanese on the contamination in the ocean and will be prepared to do so again.

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