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May 7, 1956

Major Gordon Jacks
Task Group 7.1, TU-7
APO 437, Box 1
San Francisco, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Gordon:

By virtue of the fact that you are the only one who has had the decency to write, I will direct my reply to you. I trust, however, that you will pass this around to Bill Kennedy, Harvey, and any others who might be interested.

Since your departure, a lot of interesting things have happened, although we seem to have escaped without any real crises. Wright and Ernie Anderson returned from a very successful trip to Europe. The impression they got from the Geneva meeting was that for the foreseeable future permissible radiation doses to the general public will be regulated by the geneticists. For this reason, we are toying with the idea of starting a genetic program here, while the boys in H-4 are now needling me to build a crystal-type whole-body counter to be placed along side the one we already have.

Payne also returned from a successful trip to Japan. Apparently in the records of the ABCC there are names of many thousand individuals who can be located within a few feet at time zero; as a matter of fact, these people can be located more accurately than can ground zero.

We got the Amarillo shot off about 24 hours before you fired the first one, and what was originally known as Operation Quick and Dirty was a grand success. Our fondest hopes of the ability of dirt to scavenge active material were amply borne out. The roof of the bunker, with its 10 ft of dirt, went up in the air about 10 ft and then dropped back to the floor. Dust was minimal, did not rise much above 50 ft, and dropped to the ground rapidly. A finger of activity could be traced in a downwind direction on the ground but petered out to background at approximately 1000 ft or a little more. Everything went perfectly according to plan -- we even had a postponement because of unfavorable winds but this lasted only about 3 hrs. GK-5 accomplished their insertion by means of a large tin funnel. The highest exposure any of them got was about 30 mr. Dean Mayer now wishes to move GK-5 permanently to Nevada. On arriving at Amarillo, I was a little taken aback to discover that in the Operation Plan for the shot I was officially listed as Test Director. If I had known that was coming up, I would have kept the hat.

Major Gordon Jacks

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As regards your present postponements, we are kept pretty well informed -- the Press sees to that. I was greatly intrigued to see Gaelen Felt described in the paper as "a doe-eyed physicist from Los Alamos." Maybe the guy meant to say red-eyed but no one would believe him.

We trust that all goes well with you and I know that after you get Cherokee out of the way life will be far more enjoyable. Give everyone our best and suggest to some of those characters that if they don't take pen in hand pretty soon they might just as well stay out there permanently.

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.,
Health Division Leader

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