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Herzohel Becholey, Director, OPI
Department of Defense

April 23, 1954

Rodney L. Southwick, Acting Chief
Public Information Service

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT BY JTF ON WEATHER SERVICE RETURNS

SYMBOL: ISP:ELS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The following announcement has been reviewed by the Chairman and General Manager for issuance by the Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN after arrival of the weather service personnel at Tripler General Hospital, Honolulu. It is our opinion it would be preferable to use the announcement in response to inquiries rather than an across-the-board announcement to all units.

The Chairman and General Manager have no objection to the following text:

"Thirty-one enlisted men of the Army, Navy and Air Force who were exposed to moderate amounts of radiation during the H-bomb experiments at Bikiniar on March 1 have been returned to Tripler General Hospital, Honolulu, T.H., for medical processing prior to reassignment. Despite the fact there is nothing apparently wrong with the men, they are being given complete medical examinations prior to return to full military duty."

"Although none of the group has experienced any symptoms of radiation illness, they have been under close observation ever since their exposure last month.

"The 236 native residents of the islands nearby the Pacific Proving Ground area are remaining on Eniwetok for further observation until they can be returned to their homes after the tests. No permanent harm to any of them is expected as a result of their exposure."

It is suggested that publication of the names of the enlisted men being returned to Tripler may result in pressure from some news-papers and wire services for individual stories and/or interviews on the men's experiences on an uncontrolled basis.

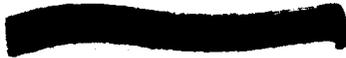
The paragraph referring to the Japanese fishermen has been eliminated because this is an information matter for which the Department of State is responsible and involves relations between the Japanese and United States government.

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

Reviewed by Carl Wilson 4/13/84
DATE
by: W. Tanch 3/17/86

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4-23-54



It is requested that the Department of State, Office of Assistant Secretary of State for Atomic Energy, Attention: George Spiegel, Room 7258, be furnished a copy of the announcement prior to issuance for transmission to the U. S. Embassy, Tokyo.

A copy also should be transmitted to Clarkson and we assume your office will handle.

cc: R. Snapp, GSE
Gen. Fields, DMA
J. Hall, UMSP
Dr. Bugar, BEM

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Office of the Secretary

APR 23 1954

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