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18 June 1954

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Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman
Chief, AWS
MATS, USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

RG 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

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Dear General Moorman:

At the request of Dr. Alvin Graves, Scientific Deputy to Commander, Joint Task Force Seven, I am writing to you for Dr. Thomas L. Shipman, Health Division Leader, concerning meteorological personnel at Los Alamos. I understand that Major Newgarden has already reported some developments on this subject and this letter will advise you and Colonel Jones of the present status.

As you are aware, the problem of forecasting radioactive fall-out has become much more critical on account of events during the Castle Operation. In the past this problem has been worked on more or less sporadically, when it became urgent, by a number of people at Los Alamos. Dr. Graves expects that he will have to continue for some time carrying considerable responsibility for decisions on safe conditions for shooting at future test operations, and he believes that there is an urgent need for at least one competent research meteorologist at Los Alamos who will be able to give his full attention to this problem until a satisfactory solution is reached. He is, therefore, attempting to engage the services of a civilian professor of meteorology to work on this problem in J-Division.

Dr. Shipman and I both desire very strongly that the Air Weather Service Detachment in the Health Division should continue to give full support to J-Division, especially in the study of radioactive fall-out problems. For this reason we would like to request that Major Stopinski be assigned as Major Newgarden's successor in charge of the Detachment. From our association with him during CASTLE, Dr. Graves, Dr. Shipman, and I, all believe that Major Stopinski would not only be able to assist in this research program, but that he would undoubtedly make significant contributions in an important field in which we expect that major advances will be forthcoming.

Major Newgarden's tour of duty here is scheduled to end in December. We would like to have Major Stopinski come here as soon as possible so that there will be a few months overlapping, and so that he will be in on the ground floor when the civilian meteorologist arrives. If and when we

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receive a favorable reply concerning Major Stopinski's assignment here, we will attempt to find the additional housing needed pending Major Kowgarden's departure.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS N. WHITE
Ass't. Ldr. for Radiological Safety
Health Division

TNW/ek

cc: Col. J. J. Jones
A. Graves, J-DO
M&R
File