

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : W. B. McCool
Secretariat

DATE: April 12, 1955

FROM : Morse Salisbury, Director
Division of Information Services

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SUBJECT: RELEASE ON TROLL PROJECT

SYMBOL: IS:MS

Attached is copy of the release on the TROLL project approved at Commission Meeting 1073, April 6.

The plan is that the release will be made this week at the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo; but not in Washington. In Washington, we will use the substance of the release to answer queries of correspondents if any are received.

Attachment:
subject release

REPOSITORY NARA - College Park
COLLECTION RC 326 Office of Security 50-58
BOX No. 49 (NW 3 - 326 - 43 cil)
FOLDER MH 45 3-2, monitoring

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with Attachment
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AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY BLM SHEA, DATE: 5/24/90
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4-12-55

Marine biological surveys which have been carried on by AEC and cooperating agencies for some years in the Marshall Islands have now been extended to the major currents of the Western Pacific.

A team of six scientists from the Atomic Energy Commission, the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and the Institute of Applied Fisheries of the University of Washington is carrying on the studies. They are aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter TANEY. The expedition departed from the West Coast of the United States February 26, 1955. It has traversed wide reaches of the Equatorial and North Equatorial currents and before the end of the expedition in mid-April will traverse the Kuroshio Current east of Japan.

The scientists aboard the TANEY are making measurements at various depths of temperatures, current characteristics, salinity, and the traces of radioactivity, natural and introduced, which may be found in the sea water. They also are collecting plankton and other marine life and are measuring these specimens for radioactivity.

The preliminary survey data of the group on the TANEY are consistent with such findings of Japanese scientists on the cruise of the SHINKOTSU MARU in June 1954 as have been made available to United States scientists. The Japanese expedition found that residual radioactivity from the test conducted in the Marshall Islands in the spring of 1954 continued to be detectable. Since then, this residual radioactivity has greatly diminished in intensity in accordance with the known laws of radioactive decay and through mixing with large volumes of the ocean water.

The minute traces of radioactivity being found by the TANEY expedition exist in proportions predicted by oceanographers. The activity is much smaller than any which would create a health hazard, according to internationally-recognized health standards.

It is expected that the data collected during this cruise will clear up a number of presently obscure points in oceanography. The presence of traces of radioactivity from the CASTLE series of tests is being utilized in mapping the course and rate of flow of the North Equatorial current. The expedition will follow these waters as long as it is possible to detect the identifying activity. Valuable information concerning the depth of mixing of surface waters and the rate of turnover of the deeper waters should result from these studies.

Commander Albert J. Carpenter is in command of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter TANEY and the members of the scientific team are as follows:

Dr. John H. Harley, Mr. Robert Morse, Mr. Rudolph Anker, Health and Safety Laboratory, New York Operations Office, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission; Dr. Warren S. Wooster and Mr. Robert Gilkey, Scripps Oceanographic Institute; Dr. Allyn H. Seymour, Institute of Applied Fisheries, University of Washington.