

RG 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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Dear Bill:

I was more than happy to get your TWX giving the results of the first day's survey. I must admit that we were a little open-mouthed when we got the numbers down on a map and saw what had happened. Our first conclusion was that the wind had probably played a very dirty trick on you. In no other way could we explain the emerging radiation levels on the more or less distant islands. I assume that all of your readings were given in μ r per hour, and I trust that you will continue to use the same system in the future. Yesterday we heard of the revised estimate of yield which would help to explain the situation in part, although we still think that the wind was blowing backwards.

It seems obvious that the schedule may be badly upset in the future. We assume that the camps on Nan and Tare are out of business. We hope that in time you will give us a good description of what the hole in the reef looks like and also give us a picture of how the work in general is to be carried on. I would also like to know what "thumbtack" is. It does not seem to appear on any of the code lists we have around here.

We assume that the entire atoll was evacuated except for the party on Nan. We will be interested to learn what sort of exposures they received. If they stayed in a bunker, they were perfectly o.k. until they emerged to be taken off. We will, of course, be extremely interested in getting the results of subsequent surveys to learn something about the decay rate. Rod Spence is due out there before long, and you might want to get from him a description of how his material differed from previous cases. It is quite interesting.

Si Shlaer and company brought a 360 curie source into the cobalt room at ERL. It certainly appears that we can use sources there of that size without any serious problems. Don Muller dropped his pill down through a hole in the floor. It was finally recovered using a technique half way between golf and polo.

We will try to keep you posted on interesting news items around here and trust that you will reciprocate. Best regards to all of you.

Very truly yours

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PER DOC REVIEW JAN 197

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN

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

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