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Box 3 of 13

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FM MAHLON E GATES MGR USAEC NVOO LAS VEGAS NEV

Captain Gay
Mr. Carlson
CDR Wolff
Major Pava
Major Cotner
Mr. Little

TO MAJ GEN FRANK A CAMM AGMMA USAEC WASHDC (PERSONAL)

AE

BT

UNCLAS///EYES ONLY/// SECTION 1 OF 2

SINCE MARCH OF 1972, THE NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE HAS HAD INCREASING COMMITMENT TO AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROJECTED RETURN OF ENIWETOK - FIRST TO THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION AND LATER TO THE ENIWETOK PEOPLE THEMSELVES. BECAUSE OF THE REMOTE LOCATION, THE EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE POLITICAL SITUATION, AND THE NECESSITY FOR TIMELY AND DECISIVE ACTION, THE MANAGER, NV HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO PLACE HEAVY PERSONAL RELIANCE UPON THE ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR OPERATIONS, UNDER WHOSE COGNIZANCE ALL OF NV'S ACTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. MUCH OF THE TIME THAT ASSISTANT MANAGER, ROGER RAY, HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ACT UNDER A BROAD CHARTER OF AUTHORITY WITHOUT THE SUPPORT WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE PROVIDED BY CONVENTIONAL STAFFING; ALTHOUGH, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, I HAVE FOUND HIS JUDGMENTS TO BE SOUND AND FULLY WARRANTED BY THE

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YMAA-7 Trust Territory (32)

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PAGE 2 RHWNEA0008 UNCLAS ///EYES ONLY///

CIRCUMSTANCES AT HAND, I AM AWARE THAT AT TIMES THEY HAVE COME INTO QUESTION FOR STYLE, IF NOT FOR CONTENT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT FIVE SPECIFIC ACTIONS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE DNA STAFF AND THAT THESE HAVE COME TO YOUR ATTENTION AS MATTERS OF CONCERN TO GEN. DUNN. FOUR OF THE FIVE HAVE OCCURRED DURING MY TENURE AS MANAGER, NV, AND I CAN ADDRESS THEM FROM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE. THE REMAINING ONE, WHICH I SHALL ADDRESS FIRST, I HAVE CAREFULLY RESEARCHED IN THE RECORD AND MY COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS ARE BASED UPON THAT RESEARCH AS WELL AS DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH MY DEPUTY, WHO AT THE TIME WAS ACTING AS THE MANAGER.

FIRST, THE SO-CALLED QUARANTINE OF RUNIT. IN MID-MAY, 1972, AS OUR PRELIMINARY RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ENIWETOK WAS BEING COMPLETED, RAY LEARNED, INFORMALLY, OF A PLANNED VISIT OF ENIWETOK TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO ENIWETOK ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR LAWYERS AND BY A NUMBER OF TRUST TERRITORY OFFICIALS. KNOWING OF THE SERIOUS RADIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED AND BEING SENSITIVE ALSO TO THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE VISIT, HE JOINED THE PARTY AT KWAJALEIN AND RETAINED TWO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AT ENIWETOK TO PROVIDE A RADIOLOGICAL
WITH THE DNA PACE PROJECT OFFICER AND WITH THE SAMTEC LIAISON OFFICER ON KWAJALEIN AND INFORMED THEM THAT HE FELT IT HIS

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33

PAGE 3 RHWNEAA0008 UNCLAS////EYES ONLY////

ESCORT AND TO INTERPRET TO THE MARSHALLESE THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH WE THEN SAW FOR ACTIONS PRECEDENT TO ANY REHABILITATION EFFORT. UPON ARRIVAL AT ENIWETOK, RAY LEARNED THAT HIS RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY PARTY HAD RETRIEVED ON RUNIT ISLAND THREE PIECES OF DEBRIS WHICH IT WAS THEN BELIEVED MIGHT CONTAIN METALLIC PLUTONIUM. THESE FRAGMENTS WERE RETURNED BY SPECIAL COURIER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FOR PRIORITY ANALYSIS, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS BE REPORTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UPON COMPLETION OF THE MARSHALLESE VISIT TO ENIWETOK, THE PARTY RETURNED TO KWAJALEIN AND, WHILE THERE, ROGER RECEIVED THE REPORT HE HAD REQUESTED. IT CONFIRMED THAT THE PARTICLES WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY METALLIC PLUTONIUM. KNOWING THE PROBABLE SOURCE OF THIS MATERIAL AND, THEREFORE, THAT A LARGE QUANTITY OF PLUTONIUM PROBABLY REMAINED ON RUNIT, HE BECAME DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT NO MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN OR WERE AVAILABLE TO PREVENT SERIOUS CONTAMINATION OF PEOPLE, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND MARINE CRAFT, AND, THROUGH THEM, PLUTONIUM CONTAMINATION OF ENIWETOK ISLAND AND EVEN AIRCRAFT DEPARTING THEREFROM. HE IMMEDIATELY CONSULTED WITH THE DNA PACE PROJECT OFFICER AND WITH THE SAMTEC LIAISON OFFICER ON KWAJALEIN AND INFORMED THEM THAT HE FELT IT HIS

5001149

33

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RESPONSIBILITY TO CAUSE PREVENTIVE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN. TO THAT
END HE PREPARED AND COORDINATED WITH THE AFORENAMED INDIVIDUALS
A TELETYPE TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, SAMTEC, AT VANDENBURG
AFB, RECOMMENDING THAT THE CG, SAMTEC, MAJ. GEN. LOW, INVOKE
A QUARANTINE UNTIL APPROPRIATE CONTROLS COULD BE ESTABLISHED.
AS SOON AS HE REACHED HONOLULU AND WAS ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS
MATTER BY TELEPHONE, HE TELEPHONED THE ACTING MANAGER, NV TO
INITIATE THE NECESSARY FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS.

I FIND ROGER'S ACTIONS IN THE RUNIT MATTER TO BE ENTIRELY
CONSISTENT WITH THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS OFFICE.
I FIND NO BASIS FOR QUESTIONING HIS TECHNICAL JUDGMENT OR
HIS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM IN GIVING PROMPT AND CLEAR ADVICE
TO THAT OFFICIAL WHO HAD BOTH THE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE
AUTHORITY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION.

THE SECOND ISSUE, I UNDERSTAND, IS DESCRIBED AS A MEETING BETWEEN
ROGER RAY AND BRIG. GEN. BRICKEL, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (AE). SOMETIME BEFORE THE SEPT. 7
INTERAGENCY MEETING, ROGER AND DR. WALT NERVIK OF LIVERMORE
DISCUSSED THE MATTER OF LABORATORY ANALYTICAL WORKLOAD SUPPORTING
THE ENIWETOK PROGRAM. RECOGNIZING THAT MOST OF THE AVAILABLE

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34

PAGE 5 RHWNEAA0008 UNCLAS////EYES ONLY////

LABORATORY CAPACITY WHICH WAS THEN AVAILABLE TO US WAS ALREADY HEAVILY COMMITTED, WALT NERVIK SUGGESTED THAT MCCLELLAN HAD THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY AND HE UNDERSTOOD, INFORMALLY, WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE. RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE A DIRECTIVE OR MISSION ASSIGNMENT FROM WASHINGTON, ROGER DECIDED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT WITH SOMEONE FROM CARL WALSKE'S OFFICE BEFORE FORMALLY REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT. SINCE HE KNEW GEN. BRICKEL AND KNEW ALSO THAT BRICKEL WOULD BE AT THE INTERAGENCY MEETING, HE CALLED BRICKEL AND ASKED IF THEY MIGHT HAVE A BRIEF CONVERSATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE SEPT. 7 MEETING ON A SUBJECT WHICH HE FELT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS ON THE TELEPHONE. AS IT TURNED OUT, BRICKEL HAD A COMMITMENT BACK AT THE PENTAGON IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTERAGENCY MEETING AND INVITED ROGER AND WALT NERVIK TO DROP BY HIS OFFICE FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONVERSATION WAS TO ASK GEN. BRICKEL IF HE FELT THAT DR. WALSKE WOULD SUPPORT A REQUEST FOR MCCLELLAN LABORATORY ASSISTANCE, IF AND WHEN SUCH A REQUEST WERE MADE. SUBSEQUENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, A FORMAL REQUEST ORIGINATED BY ME WAS PASSED THROUGH DMA

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35

PAGE 6 RHWNEAA 0008 UNCLAS///EYES ONLY///

TO DNA, WITH THE HOPED-FOR RESULT. SURELY ROGER HAD NO INTENTION OF BYPASSING ME OR YOU, OR THE DIRECTOR OF DNA OR ANYONE IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AT MCCLELLAN, IN SEEKING TO LEARN IN ADVANCE, AS A GOOD STAFF OFFICER SHOULD, WHAT WAS LIKELY TO BE THE REACTION TO A REQUEST HE ASKED HIS BOSS TO SIGN.

THE THIRD MATTER, I UNDERSTAND, HAS TO DO WITH THE SO-CALLED PULLOUT OF ENIWETOK AT THE TIME OF TYPHOON OLGA. THE TOTAL EVACUATION OF ENIWETOK ON OCT. 23 WAS DIRECTED BY CG, SAMTEC IN LIGHT OF A PREDICTION THAT THE TYPHOON WOULD DO SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE ATOLL. I ASSUME THAT THAT EVACUATION IS NOT IN QUESTION. THE RETURN TO ENIWETOK 36 HOURS LATER WAS INTENDED AS A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SURVEY PROGRAM COULD BE RESUMED. BY NOW YOU HAVE SEEN RAY'S TELETYPE REPORT TO ME ON THAT SUBJECT AND HAVE PERHAPS HEARD HIS ACCOUNT OF IT ON TAPE. THE DEPARTURE OF ALL AEC AND DNA PERSONNEL FROM ENIWETOK AT ABOUT 1300 LOCAL ON OCT. 25 WAS DICTATED BY A STATEMENT FROM THE SITE MANAGER THAT HE COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY PROJECT PERSONNEL AT THAT TIME. THE TIME OF DEPARTURE FROM ENIWETOK FOR KWAJALEIN WAS DICTATED BY OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AT KWAJALEIN FOR THE EVACUATION AIRCRAFT. HAVING CONSULTED

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36