

WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS
ARMED FORCES SPECIAL WEAPONS PROJECT
P. O. BOX 2610
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

20 June 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION:

Via: ~~RESTRICTED~~ Military Liaison Committee

Subject: Atomic Energy Commission Support for Scientific Resurvey of Bikini Atoll.

1. At the joint meeting of AEC and MLC on 18 June, 1947 the question of technical support by the Atomic Energy Commission of the Scientific Resurvey of Bikini Atoll was discussed. The question left unresolved related to the necessity for radio chemical measurements to be performed on samples in the field. In previous discussion it had been pointed out that radio chemical laboratories in the United States, for example, Berkeley, Los Alamos, and Oak Ridge, would naturally be equipped to perform much more thorough analyses of samples shipped back from Bikini. Thus it was reasoned that the principal scientific need at Bikini would be in connection with selection of significant samples.

2. It was agreed in the joint meeting of 18 June that further discussion with scientific groups involved in the Bikini resurvey would be conducted to determine the justification for radio chemical analyses in the field. These discussions have been held. The compelling reason for being able to perform radio chemical analyses at Bikini is that without such analyses there will be essentially random sampling, whereas with radio chemistry available the sampling will be direct and collection of significant samples will be practically assured.

3. In view of the above, it is requested that the Atomic Energy Commission include in its support of the Scientific Resurvey of Bikini Atoll support of the radio chemical analysis to be performed at Bikini to the extent of making available up to six qualified technical personnel for this purpose.

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