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December 8, 1953

Rear Admiral H. Lamont Pugh
The Surgeon General
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Admiral Pugh:

You will recall that nearly a year ago you approved the participation of members of the staff of the Naval Medical Research Institute in the conduct of the biomedical program of the spring tests at Nevada Proving Grounds. I have great satisfaction in informing you that through the great interest and cooperation on the part of Captain Kellum it was possible for us to have the services of Commander Eugene P. Cronkite as the director of the biomedical experiments and the assistance of various others from the Naval Medical Research Institute and the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory in carrying out this very important program. We were fortunate in having an unusually high proportion of successful experiments, and information was developed which should be of inestimable value in guiding our civil defense planning against possible atomic attack.

We now are engaged in the work of compiling and transmitting this information to our Federal Civil Defense Administration. Further, as a part of the very important development of our joint defense interests, the Commission has authorized us to call a conference of representatives of Canada, Great Britain, and the United States to exchange classified information on human and environmental weapons effects under the new topic of the Technical Cooperation Program as approved by the National Security Council. We plan to have this three-day conference in Washington, probably about the middle of February. It would greatly aid in the presentation of the American material if Commander Cronkite might be permitted to serve as a member of the American delegation. On many of the topics which will be discussed he has the most complete and detailed information and is most competent to discuss the results of the experiments so far conducted.

Admiral H. Lanont Bugh

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On behalf of the Atomic Energy Commission, I wish to express to you our great appreciation for the many courtesies and the great cooperation which has been extended to us by Captain Kellum and members of his staff. I am very much aware that this substantial effort has been undertaken by the group at NMRI in addition to other very pressing duties. I feel certain that without the benefit of the experience and competence of this group of Naval scientists the biomedical experiments would not have been feasible in the pattern it was possible to use.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Higher, M.D.
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: Captain Kellum, NMRI
Dr. Paul McDaniel, NLS

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