



DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

September 5, 1986

Office of the General Counsel  
General Counsel

Dr. Thomas W. Shirley  
1202 Highland Drive  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Dear Doctor Shirley:

This is in reply to your letter of 25 June 1986 which was forwarded for my response by David F. Emery of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Operation CASTLE is summarized in the enclosed fact sheet and is fully detailed in the Defense Nuclear Agency's (DNA) report 6035F, Operation Castle, 1954 which is available for review at any of the libraries in the enclosed facilities list. This volume, is also available for purchase from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at a cost of \$40.95. Their address is:

National Technical Information Service  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
(703) 487-4650

Additional publications concerning Operation CASTLE are available through the Coordination and Information Center (CIC), Las Vegas, Nevada and through NTIS. Enclosed is an informative pamphlet concerning CIC which details how to obtain materials from them. Also attached is a list of the reports available at NTIS.

During Operation CASTLE, a group of 28 Americans and 239 Marshallese were inadvertently exposed to fallout. Approximately 40 of the Marshallese experienced nausea, six of whom reported vomiting and diarrhea. None of the other exposed people reported any definite gastrointestinal symptoms. Some of the Marshallese and Americans suffered from burning of the eyes and itching of the skin from one to three days. The Marshallese on Rongelap and Ailingnae Islands (totaling 82 people) experienced skin lesions of varying severity. The Americans developed minor unulcerated skin lesions. All of the lesions in both groups healed quickly. Various blood changes were definitely noted among the Marshallese on Rongelap and Ailingnae Islands as well as among the group of exposed Americans. Between the 27th and 42nd post-exposure days, an epidemic of upper respiratory diseases (URI) struck over half of the Marshallese on Rongelap and Ailingnae Islands.

Further information on the Marshallese and the effects of the fallout is also available through the enclosed list from CIC. Also included is a Radiological Survey of Downwind Atolls Contaminated by BRAVO for your information.

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I hope the above information has been helpful.

Sincerely,



ROBERT L. BRITTIGAN  
General Counsel

Enclosures:  
CASTLE Fact Sheet  
Facilities List  
NTIS List of CASTLE reports  
CIC List of CASTLE reports  
CIC Pamphlet  
Radiological Survey