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File: Operation Radiological

UNCLAS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ROGER RAY, KWAJALEIN, MI, DTD 10/27/72, GIVES ALL PERTINENT INFO WE ARE AWARE OF AT THIS TIME:

UNCLAS SSC-RKE-95-72

1. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING RESUMPTION OF SURVEY ACTIVITIES AT ENIWETOK. IT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS OUR INTENTION TO RESUME SURVEY OPERATIONS AT THE EARLIEST DATE SUPPORT CAPABILITY IS REGENERATED. IN MY JUDGEMENT, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE SITE MANAGER AND OF EARL GILMORE ON-SITE AT ENIWETOK YESTERDAY IT WAS TO BE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THAT CONDITION COULD EXIST. WITH ONE HOUR REMAINING OF OUR ALLOWED GROUND TIME (BASED UPON MY COMMITMENT TO RELEASE OUR RE-ENTRY AIRCRAFT FOR CRITICAL KWAJ OPERATIONS) I WAS AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

GE-AMTEC

A. THE ONE DIESEL GENERATOR WHICH HAD BEEN CONSIDERED SERVICE-

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ABLE HAD DESTROYED ITSELF UPON BEING ENERGIZED.

B. THE REMAINING GENERATOR - FONDLY KNOWN AS SHAKY JAKE - WAS OF 1942 VINTAGE, HAD 84000 HOURS SINCE LAST OVERHUL AND HAD SHAKEN ITSELF OUT OF ITS FLOOR MOUNTINGS. BEST H AND N AND GE JUDGEMENT WAS THAT THIS MACHINE COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SURVIVE MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO OF FULL OPERATION. IT WAS THEREFORE THE SITE MANAGER'S INTENTION TO ATTEMPT TO BRING IT ON LINE FOR LIMITED EMERGENCY POWER ONLY. THIS ATTEMPT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE NO BETTER THAN 50 PCT SUCCESS PROBABILITY.

C. NO QUALIFIED REPAIR PERSONNEL WERE AVAILABLE; AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WAS NEEDED ALSO.

D. THE SEAWATER COOLING SYSTEM WAS BADLY IN NEED OF REPAIR TO SUPPORT EVEN A GOOD GENERATOR IF ONE BECAME AVAILABLE.

E. NO FRESH WATER PRODUCTION COULD BE SUPPORTED WITH ELECTRICAL OUTPUT AND THE DISTILLATION PLANT ITSELF WAS IN SERIOUS DIS-REPAIR.

F. OUR REQUIREMENT FOR DEHUMIDIFIED SPACE FOR ELECTRONICS COULD NOT BE MET.

G. SEA CONDITIONS WOULD NOT LIKELY PERMIT SMALL BOAT OPERA-

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TIONS FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THEREFORE PALUMBO HAD DECIDED TO DEPART ENIWETOK AS SOON AS NECESSARY EQUIPMENT COULD BE PUT ABOARD. DESTINATION BIKINI VIA KWAJALEIN.

H. MARINE RESOURCES AT ENIWETOK WERE LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OPERATIONAL.

I. HELICOPTER SUPPORT IF DEPLOYED TO ENIWETOK AS PLANNED WOULD IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL POPULATION LOAD OF THIRTY WITH A POSSIBLE SURGE TO THIRTY-EIGHT PERSONNEL. ✓

2. MY DECISION WAS TO WITHDRAW FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD WHICH MIGHT BE ONE OR TWO WEEKS (THEN BELIEVED MINIMUM) AND COULD BE MUCH LONGER. I DIRECTED THAT EQUIPMENT THEREFORE BE STOWED IN CONDITION TO WITHSTAND TWO MONTHS OF DISUSE AND ANY WHICH COULD NOT BE SO STOWED BE RETURNED TO KWAJ FOR PROBABLE RETURN CONUS. FROM YOUR CONVERSATION I SENSE THAT THIS DIRECTION HAS BEEN INTERPRETED AS AN ARBITRARY LONG TERM STAND DOWN. }

3. UPON MY RETURN TO KWAJALEIN I IMMEDIATELY INITIATED ACTIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN OUR MOMENTUM AND ASSURE OUR UTILIZATION OF THE NOW COMMITTED HELICOPTER SUPPORT. TO THAT END I HAVE DISCUSSED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES WITH FIRST MARINE AIR WING (JAPAN) AND MARINE AIR GROUP 36 (OKINAWA), THE SOURCE OF OUR SUPPORT. I HAVE ALSO OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM KMR TO SUPPORT

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A DEPLOYMENT OF CHOPPERS TO KWAJALEIN AS A STAGING LOCATION. I PLAN TO HAVE A FIRM COORDINATED PLAN AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH COMSEVENTHFLT AND CINCPACFLT REPS AS SOON AS I CAN REACH HONOLULU.

4. AT THIS TIME WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FLESHING OUT A PLAN WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO RESUME OPERATIONS AT ENIWETOK ON NOV 8 IF SAMTEC CAN PROVIDE LIFE SUPPORT. OUR TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

NOV 8 TO NOV 22 - AIRBORNE RADIOMETRIC SURVEY AND PHOTO MAPPING.

NOV 22~~59~~ ~~83~~: 20 - MARINE AND AIR SAMPLING; ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RADIOMETRIC SURVEY DATA.

JAN 3 TO COMPLETION - BIOTA AND SOIL SURVEY.

5. CONCURRENT WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE, THE ANALYTICAL AND INTERPRETIVE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. PLEASE NOTE AT THIS POINT THAT WE HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED AND DISPATCHED A SUBSTANTIAL SAMPLE LOAD. THE MARINE SAMPLE COLLECTION COMMENCING AGAIN ON NOV 22 SHOULD PROVIDE A WORKLOAD WITHOUT CAVITATION FOR THE LABORATORY CAPABILITY.

6. THE PROGRAM AS OUTLINED RECOGNIZES THAT WE ARE NOW DE-COUPLED FROM PALUMBO AND, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, FROM PACE. THUS OUR WINDOW FOR FIELD OPERATION IS LESS CONSTRAINED

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AND WE CAN NOW PLAN MORE OPTIMUM SCHEDULING OF OUR IMPACT UPON  
BASE SUPPORT. THE PROGRAM ALSO PUTS THE HAZARDOUS AND MOST  
PHYSICALLY DEMANDING SOIL AND BIOTA PROGRAM AT A TIME WHEN  
IMPROVING RATHER THAN DETERIORATING WEATHER MAY BE EXPECTED.  
THE NET RESULT, WE BELIEVE, WILL BE A PROGRAM WHICH WILL  
PRODUCE TIMELY RESULTS CONSISTENT WITH YOUR COMMITMENTS AT  
THE SEPT 7 INTERAGENCY MEETING.

7. AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE, SAMTEC VANDENBERG, SAMTEC SITE  
MANAGER ENIWETOK AND SAMTEC LIAISON OFFICER HERE ALL AGREE  
THAT ENIWETOK IS NOT NOW IN SUPPORT STATUS AND THAT NOVEMBER  
8 IS THE EARLIEST CREDIBLE DATE FOR IT TO BECOME SO. OUR  
PLANS AS SET FORTH ABOVE ARE OF COURSE CONTINGENT UPON THERE  
BEING A RELIABLE AND RESPONSIVE SUPPORT BASE.

8. THIS MESSAGE FULLY CONCURRED IN BY WALTER NERVIK AND TOM  
MCCRAW.

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