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April 4, 1955

Mr. Jerome Lederer, Director
Flight Safety Foundation
471 Park Avenue
New York, New York

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Lederer:

On March 24, 1955 we received a copy of a letter from Mr. Fred D. Smith written to you, together with your business card. Since I assume you wish a reply, the following information will answer Mr. Smith's inquiry.

As a part of the regular procedures during nuclear test operations, aircraft from the test organization fly near and through the atomic clouds at different times after detonation. Extensive radiation measurements are made during and after these flights so that a considerable amount of data are available upon which to base estimates of radiation exposure. Even when flying directly through the atomic cloud near the Nevada Test Site the radiation exposures to the test pilots are typically less than one roentgen. Past experience has also shown that the associated internal radiation exposure is even less.

You may be reassured that there is no radiation hazard to the crew or passengers from flying through an area away from the Nevada Test Site where the atomic cloud is reported to be passing. Through the cooperation of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, certain air areas near the Nevada Test Site are closed to traffic for periods of time after each detonation in order to reduce even a possible small radiation exposure that might be experienced.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. Bugher, M.D., Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc Mason T. Charak, National
Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

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