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August 23, 1952
CF-650
Tm-lm

NEVADA CATTLE

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This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws of the United States, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

By this time those primarily concerned should have had opportunity to consider the report by Doctors Thompson, Whipple, and White on their inspection of the cattle in Nevada. Certain very broad generalities can be drawn from this report:

1. There exists no reasonable doubt but that these cattle were injured by fall out from one of the shots in the spring series, probably one or both of the two final detonations.
2. The injury to the cattle is less severe than in the case of the Trinity cattle.
3. It is presumed that the cattle have continued to graze for a two and one-half month period in an area which is to a greater or lesser extent still showing detectable contamination.
4. There is no reason to feel that the cattle have suffered any permanent damage except for a minimal amount of scarring on the back and changes in color of the hair in localized areas; nor is there any reason to believe that the breeding ability of the cattle or their offspring will, in any way be affected.

I believe that all of us can accept these points, but I am not certain how convincing they might be should the owner attempt to sell the cattle on the open market. I recommend, therefore, that a small number of the animals, not fewer than two and probably not more than four, be purchased and brought to Los Alamos, where one should be slaughtered immediately for study of the tissues with assay for radioactivity, and that at least one other should be kept for at least several months and then slaughtered for the same purposes.

This work would not add much of any knowledge which was not gained from the Trinity cattle, but it should convince the present owner and possible purchasers that careful studies were made of the cattle injured in this particular episode.

If this work is to be done, I feel that it should be done as soon as possible.

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.
Health Division Leader

cc N. E. Bradbury
Carroll Tyler
Seth Woodruff
Jack Clark

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BY Ma-han Jan 8/15/96 LANL/FSS-18
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