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June 9, 1969

SECRETARIAT

AEC 907/40

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THULE STATUS REPORT

Note by the Secretary

The Assistant General Manager for Military Application has requested that his attached memorandum of June 5, 1969 be circulated for the information of the Commission.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20545

JUN 5 1969

Chairman Seaborg
Commissioner Ramey
Commissioner Johnson
Commissioner Costagliola
Commissioner

B-52 CRASH AT THULE AIR BASE, GREENLAND

In my memorandum of September 6, 1968*, the Commission was advised that the estimated cost for disposal of the residue returned from Greenland was $504,000. The Manager, Savannah River Operations, has reported that the estimated cost has been reduced to $300,000 and that there is a possibility of an additional reduction of $50,000 to $75,000.

The major reduction results from tests and experience which show that the liquid contents have very little plutonium and may be discarded to the seepage basins after filtration. Original cost estimates were based on evaporating the liquid. The safeguards against release of radioactive materials are equivalent to those which would have been provided had the liquid been evaporated. To date, liquid from 225 of the 315 jet engine containers has been processed satisfactorily, and the engine containers buried. Processing, with direct discard of the filtrate, is continuing at a rate of about five jet engine containers per day. Based on the current schedule, the anticipated completion date is September 1, 1969.

Measurement of the residual plutonium 239 has been accomplished and the plutonium content in the solid debris is estimated to be from 2.2 to 3.9 kg. The estimated plutonium content of all the liquids is less than 10 grams.

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J. Diaz 3/7/88
REVIEWED BY DATE

for
Edward B. Giller
Major General, USAF
Assistant General Manager
for Military Application

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