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In Reply Refer To:
TL:RLS

RHTG # 42,701
BOX # [scribble]

Oak Ridge, Tennessee
December 20, 1948

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267
HRE:242

Miss Jane E. Wike
Executive Assistant to the Director
Atomic Energy Project
University of Rochester
School of Medicine and Dentistry
P. O. Box 287, Cirttenden Station
Rochester 7, New York

DECLASSIFICATION RECOMMENDED
ROY ANDERSON, ANALYSAS
Name (ADC) - Organization
Date 2-23-95

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORIZED
MALCOLM THEISEN, ANALYSAS
Name (ADD) - Organization
Date 2/21/95

Subject: INFORMATION ON FLASH BURNS

Dear Miss Wike:

Reference is made to your letter dated December 13, 1948, requesting information regarding investigation of injuries due to flash burns caused by the atomic bomb.

This office has made an exhaustive review of all documents which fall within the Biological Effects of Radiation category of the subject; index, both unclassified and classified; a thorough review of all available published material as well as the material which is scheduled for publication as declassified documents. Most of the existing literature on this subject appears to be of such an elementary nature that it would be of little or no benefit to Dr. Pearse in his flash burn problem. The published literature, particularly, is more likely to be of interest to the layman than a scientific group. This information deals in only very broad terms with bombing effects, outlining the number of casualties and percentages of various kinds of casualties, such as those caused by falling objects, burns, and radiation. The publications issued by the Strategic Bombing Survey Group, the Army, the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, Manhattan District and others also deal in only very general terms with the flash burn. A great number of photographs of flash burn effects are available, but it appears that these also would be of questionable value.

This office has recently reviewed and distributed a number of English translations of Japanese reports which in our opinion represents the

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INFORMATION & PUBLICATIONS - 15

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Miss Jane E. Mike
December 20, 1948

most comprehensive information available on flash burns. Copies of these documents have been previously forwarded to your office. They are:

| | |
|--------|--------|
| NP-287 | |
| NP-288 | NP-299 |
| NP-292 | NP-300 |
| NP-295 | NP-302 |
| NP-297 | NP-303 |

The following declassified documents which also may be applicable have been forwarded to your office:

EDDC-933 EDDC-1031

We are enclosing two additional Japanese documents, NP-315, and one unnumbered document entitled "Clinical Reports from Microfilm." This report will be assigned an NP number later.

For your general information we are listing the following titles of documents which you may desire to obtain. It is pointed out, however, that they deal in only general terms with atomic bomb effects:

Strategic Bombing Survey Publications
(copies are available from G.P.O.)

"The Effects of Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki,"
Chairman's Office, June 30, 1947

"The Effects of Atomic Bombs on Health and Medical Services
in Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Medical Division, March 1947

"What You Should Know About the Atomic Bomb. A Message From The
Surgeon General" Army Medical Department. (A compilation of ten
articles which appeared in issues of the U. S. Army Medical
Bulletin. Most of these articles have been abstracted individually
in Nuclear Science Abstracts)

"General Report. Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission" National
Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

"The Atomic Bomb. Facts and Implications," The Atomic Scientists
of Chicago, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois

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Miss Jane E. Wike
December 20, 1948

"The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," U. S.
Army. Manhattan Engineer District.

This office has no record of reports dealing with skin studies of Bikini animals; however, it is quite possible that this information may be available from other sources. The documents in this office which were written on the radiation effects at Bikini deal with effects on fish, sea life, algae and other micro-organisms.

It is regretted that more applicable information is not available in this office, and it is our opinion that detailed studies of flash burns, including biological effects of ray exposures, skin studies of humans in Japan and related systemic studies may not exist, or at least may not have been released at this time. Should additional information become available, it will be forwarded to you without further request.

Very truly yours,

I. A. Warheit
Chief, Library Section
Technical Information Branch, ORE

Encls.:

1. HP-315, copy 7A ✓
2. Clinical Reports from Microfilm, 1 copy ✓

Shannon/kp

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