...ORATORY
...UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
...LAMOS, NEW MEXICO

TO: [redacted]

FROM: A. C. Graves

635
Castle

SUBJECT: ACTIVATION OF BIKINI FOR TESTS

SYMBOL: J-12333

In your letter to the Manager, dated [redacted] 1952, on the subject of air drops in Operation Castle, you implied that it was desirable for the Joint Task Force to retain the capability for making air drops because that capability might make the use of Bikini Atoll unnecessary. I do not agree with this statement completely and fear that it may make it somewhat more difficult for us to obtain the use of Bikini if it should prove necessary.

In the past, tests at Eniwetok have been considered undesirable chiefly from a cost or logistic point of view. It has become increasingly clear in recent years that an even more important limitation on that site is the available real estate. The fourth test in Operation Greenhouse was a major effort. In Ivy an attempt to combine a test of a large fission device with a thermonuclear device is proving most difficult. If one compares this situation with that at Nevada during the Tumbler/Snapper series where the addition of a possible ninth shot, while undesirable, was no tremendous additional load, it becomes clear that the lack of real estate at Eniwetok is seriously limiting the number of tests which can be expected there in a given period. It is not clear to me that the limitation of 30 kilotons for a tower shot at Nevada will prove to be an acceptable limitation for all component tests.

Although I am not yet ready to recommend that Bikini be reactivated to a sufficient extent to permit some tests to be done on that Atoll, I believe the Laboratory should take the position that it may so recommend in the near future and strongly oppose any decision which might jeopardize that possibility, such for example as the return of natives to that Atoll.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEWER: DATE 6-16-94 | DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
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NAME: Leo M Matheson | 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: ____
2ND REVIEWER: DATE 6-17-94 | 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
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ALVIN C. GRAVES

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