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December 15, 1944

Classification changed to Unclassified  
by authority of the U.S.D.O.E.,

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Division of Biology and Medicine  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Per M. Paukratz TSM FSS-16, 6/9/44  
(Sig. of person authorizing change, title, org., date)

Mad M. Paukratz TSM FSS-16 6/9/44  
(Sig. of second reviewer, title, organization, date)

Dear John:

I will not be able to attend the meeting in Washington on the 20th but Wright is planning to be with you. I appreciate your sending to me the list of proposed projects. There is one of these, Project 37.4, which I will question. In the first place, I do not see how these people can hope to find any place in which their animals would receive from fallout doses in the general vicinity of 500 r. As Payne points out, this is supposed to be the operation without any fallout. It seems to us that exposures of this magnitude will be almost impossible to find unless they include some exposure from initial radiation from the fireball. Such an exposure would automatically include undesirable thermal and blast effects. Furthermore, any feeling that these people can arrive at EPC on B-2, survey the territory to choose locations for their animals on B-1, and place these animals in the field at H-4 is simply naive.

The other portion of this study, Project 37.3, also strikes me as being of questionable wisdom. In the first place, they are attempting to do very much the same thing that Howard Andrews did with his sheep. I do not see how their results can fail to be any less disappointing. Purely by luck, good or bad, we did manage to get some unusually good results on humans at Rongelap.

I will be thoroughly surprised if either of the two projects mentioned above provide anything in the way of worthwhile data. My opinion about the Blast Project, 33.1, I will keep to myself. I will simply say that I hope the participants have benefited by some of the mistakes they made the last time. To be quite candid, I am not optimistic.

Very sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.  
THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.,  
Health Division Leader

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