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1 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Command Briefing, 0000, 1 March 1954

Members present: Gen. P.W. Clarkson, Gen. E. McGinley, Gen. H. Estes, Dr. A.C. Graves, Dr. W. Ogle, Mr. J. Reeves, Dr. D. Sewall, Capt. W.L. Knickerbocker, Col. W.S. Cowart, Capt. R. M. Maynard, Lt Col C.D. Bonnot, Lt Col R.A. House.

1. In general, the forecast presented at the midnight briefing was confirmed, except that in the levels between 5 and 15 thousand feet the forecast was light and variable. In an attempt to delineate direction to these winds, it was determined that the best forecast that could be given was for the 10 thousand foot level. This was forecast to be westerly at 10 knots as the most pessimistic situation. Consequently, the hodograph plot was made using the 10 thousand foot westerly wind in order to present the most pessimistic situation which would occur. This picture gave resultant winds in the direction of Rongelap and Rongerik, however, it was considered that the distance to Rongelap and Rongerik compared to the resultant wind speeds were such that no fall-out should reach those atolls. From the forecast hodograph the time of travel to Rongelap would have been about 12 to 15 hours. The hodograph plot did however show that certainly TAKE site would be heavily contaminated, and most likely NAN. The hodograph gave two general fall-out areas. The lower level running from 260 degrees around through south to 90 degrees with a six hour fall-out line in the direction of the populated atolls in the southeast quadrant about 15 to 20 miles out from ground zero. The high level radar ran from about 45 degrees to 80 degrees with a six hour fall-out line to 70 miles. (Since the 6 hour fall-out lines were computed on about 100 micron particle size, it was recommended that the distance be doubled for safety. This amounted to considering particle sizes down to about 70 microns).

2. No change in the 72 hour cloud trajectories.
3. RadSafe Outlooks were modified as follows:
 - a. Bikini atoll was changed from favorable to unfavorable.
 - b. Eniwetok atoll remained very favorable.
 - c. Ujelang atoll remained very favorable.

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d. Native atolls in the southeast quadrant were discussed at this point and elsewhere in the briefing. The net result of the forecast was that these atolls should remain favorable due to the forecast long time of travel for fall-out to these places. Specifically, Wotho and Rongelap were considered by name and position, these being the closest native populated atolls in the vicinity of ground zero.

e. Control DDE: ^{dit} No change recommended over the change made at the 1100, 28 February briefing.

f. ATF: It was recommended that the ATFs H/2 hour position be changed from 35 miles outh of GZ to at least 50 miles south of GZ.

g. No closure was recommended on air and surface routes through Wake and Kwajalein.

h. No further shipping was reported within 500 miles of GZ.

i. An advisory to CINCPACFLT and CINCPAC was recommended in conformance with the above.

j. Task Force Ships: It was recommended that, due to the close proximity of Task Force ships to the outer edge of the six hour fall-out, these ships be moved further out on a radial line to at least 50 miles.

4. In summary, it was recommended that RadSafe conditions be considered favorable on all points, and unfavorable for Bikini shot atoll.

R. A. House
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RadSafe Officer