Department of the Army Staff Communications Office

326 U.S. ATON

OPERATIONAL

FROM: CJTF-7, LNIWETOK, MI

CSUSA DEPTAR WASH DC, CHAIRMAN AEC WASH DC

CJTF-7 (REAR) WASH DC, CINCPACELT PEARL HARBOR TH

NR : UNNUMBERED

0300172 MAR 54

This is my H plus 48 hour advisory. This mag in 5 parts.

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Part 1. Surface rad readings at 020630Z at Rongelap were reported 1.4 R/hr (Gamma only) average by 2 different type survey instruments (ANPDR-39 and NYOO scintameter). Total of 5 instruments and 2 experienced monitors utilized in survey. No reports as to evacuation progress that stoll at this time.

Part 2. Weather Detachment, only population Rogerik Atoll, completely evacuated by 0206002 and taken to Kwajalein Atoll for decontamination. Maximum skin reading Beta and Gamma prior decontamination 250 MR/hr with average hu.5 MR/hr. Medical department reports no symptoms evident. Personnel will remain under observation. Ground station Rogerik began reading above 100 MR/hr at 0102002. Film badges used by weather detachment have not yet been processed.

Part 3. Aerial survey of Utirik at approx 0205002 at low altitudes indicates 620 M. Vhr extrapolated ground reading (Gamma only by NIOO scintameter). Am continuing aerial and ground survey that area this date and will have forces at Utirik to begin evacuation that stoll on morning h Mar (Eniwetok date) if required.

Part 4. Above atolls are only ones of Marshall area that have indicated any significant rad readings. Am continuing surveys of entire area and will keep you advised.

Part 5. Will advise you if and when Utirik is evacuated. Suggest for your consideration, when evacuation problems have been resolved, a news release substantially as follows: "The 300 natives of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls of the Marshall Islands have been evacuated by navy vesseltto Kwajalein as a precautionary measure in order to preclude the possibility of their exposure to any radiation hazard incident to the detonations of the current test series. Evacuation of atolls in the Pacific have been conducted before. Natives were taken permanently from Bikini for Operation CROSSROADS and from Eniwetok for Operation SANDSTONE. They were temporarily evacuated from Ujeland during Operation IVY. The natives will be returned to their homes when the danger of significant radiation has passed."

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