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Aboard the USS Mt McKinley,
2 August 1946

Memorandum to Brigadier General K. D. Nichols:

File
7-2-7

ABK

1. In general I shall try to keep the subject matter of the memos unclassified to facilitate dispatch, but now and again there will be things that call for a classified letter. The Staff here feels that such communications should be sent thru their channels, with copies to a reading file, and their master file, but to avoid such complications, I will merely register the particular letters that require that treatment.

2. Last night I went with Admiral Parsons aboard the Saider to look at some Able Day movies. They were not particularly special, but what was exciting was the collection of still pictures they had there of the Baker shot, both aerial and from the towers. They have a series of shots taken from Bikini with a K 15 that are excellent. I asked that I be permitted to select of this collection for transmission to your office, but Captain Rivero assured me that you will be represented on a Board in Washington that will review every photograph, so that I assume you will have ample opportunity to ask for what pictures you want.

3. There is one series of shots, however, that may be kept from your office. As soon as I can get the full information on camera model, lens, etc, I can give you enough information to identify the pictures in question. Admiral Parsons has also suggested that we study these same photos here to learn what we can from them, for future reference. These pictures were taken from the after end of the bombing airplane, and show conclusively that the bomb did not yaw or bob appreciably. Power stated to Adm. Parsons that they were going to use these shots to prove that the plane was in the exactly correct position at the time of bomb release, and that the bomb was a poor one. Parsons is quite sure this whole business will be quite an issue in top Air Force circles. That is why I bring the subject up in this way. I have no intention of being an alarmist; just thought I would pass on what little information I get here, particularly since Parsons feels its importance.

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4. We are moving out of the inner anchorage again today. We have been slowly accumulating radioactivity in our plumbing, and the green slime on the ships side at the

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DATE APR 20 1976
For the U. S. Energy Research
and Development Administration
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Memorandum to General Nichols (continued)

water ~~stg~~ line has been gathering radioactivity enough to make itself felt in the crews quarters, so that the fleet is forced out into less active water for awhile. A few days out here should lower our activity sufficiently to permit us to reenter the inner anchorage.

5. It appears now that they hope to have enough information in a day or two on the subject of decontamination of vessels that perhaps they can then make some good guesses on what our future plans will be. Once I have had the chance to actually board and go below decks on the ships in the circle nearest the explosion, I believe my usefulness here will have ended. With the exception of the crews doing the decontamination, most of us are now merely sitting on our hands waiting for the ships to cool down to where they can safely be boarded. The JTF staff is slowly drifting out. General Kepner left today; Quackenbush and several other Captains leave tomorrow. I do not know yet when Admirals Parsons and Blandy will leave.

A. W. BETTS
COLONEL, CORPS OF ENGRS