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27th November 1957

Dear [REDACTED]

Blood counts at Maralinga

At the meeting of the Maralinga Board of Management held on 18.10.57, I raised the question of blood counts. At the Chairman's request a decision was deferred to allow the matter to be discussed between [REDACTED] and me. We held a discussion by telephone as a result of which I agreed to raise the matter again in U.K. from the medico legal aspect. After consultation with our Medical and Health Physics Divisions I now wish to continue to press for blood counts. The reasons are substantially those I gave at the Board meeting. U.K. has a responsibility under the Agreement with Australia for radiological safety at the Range. In the first instance we wish to exclude people with existing pathological conditions from the Range. In the second we wish to be able to demonstrate that this has been done in any case in which a claim for damage is made.

In order to reduce the amount of work to the minimum I withdraw my previous suggestion of classification of personnel based on time spent at the range by the following:-

- (a) Blood counts required before arrival on site.

All members of Services.
All scientific staff.
All other civilians who will be required to work in active areas.

- (b) Blood counts not required before arrival on site.

Civilians whose duties do not require them to enter active areas.

In the case of civilians who enter the range under (b) but are subsequently found to have a need to enter an active area a blood count would be required. Facilities should preferably exist for such examinations at Maralinga.

[REDACTED]
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/In reply
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27 NOV 1957
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