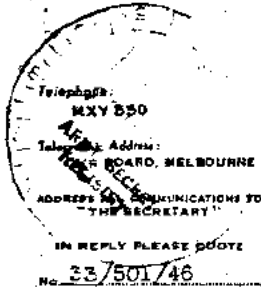


R55.9  
19 MAR. 1954



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

AIR BOARD,

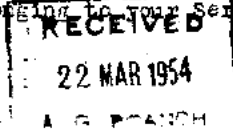
AIR FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS,  
VICTORIA BARRACKS,  
MELBOURNE. S.C.1

Director General of Medical Services,  
Army Headquarters,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH DURING OPERATION "HARGREAVE"  
(MONTI BELLO IS. OCT/NOV, 1952) AND OPERATION "TOTEM"  
(EQU CLAYPAK, S.A. OCT/NOV, 1953)

In connection with the above matter, attached please find a list of names which the Scientific Adviser, R.A.A.F., indicates were involved in the operations mentioned. Their subjection to radiation or otherwise is as set out in the gamma dosage which was measured by the members of the British Scientific staff. The dosage of beta dosage received by each person, it is stated, can only be estimated on an overall basis owing to the impracticability of measuring each individual's dose.

2. After due consideration of all the evidence available to the United Kingdom radiological health team of the Scientific Adviser, R.A.A.F., it was estimated that the beta doses would be about twice the gamma doses. For example, if the member's gamma dosage were 0.5 roentgen, then his beta dosage would be about 1.0 r.p.s.
3. You may care to have blood examinations etc. carried out.
4. This Directorate has only indirectly been given this information, although the hazard was raised by this Directorate in both instances to the authorities concerned, prior to their being carried out. It would appear that the British authorities had close control and administration of the whole affair.
5. It has been firmly requested that, should the Australian Services be involved in future tests, that a very adequate approach be made prior to effecting these with regard to the medical implications and that the Australian Medical Services be aware of the situation.
6. The security aspect is something over which certain authorities alone have control.
7. For your information, all R.A.A.F. personnel involved in aircraft and on the ground have been tested, blood examinations carried out and in all instances it does appear that they have not sustained a dangerous dosage. With the exception of some low red counts and slight white cell changes in three or four instances, no abnormalities have been detected.
8. The matter is referred for any action you may consider necessary in connection with the personnel shown on the attached list belonging to your Service.



Air Vice Marshal,  
Director General of Medical Services.

540358