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[REDACTED]

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT - ATOMIC WEAPONS TESTS -  
SEVENTH MEETING, TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY, 1958.

NOTES ON AGENDA

Item 51. Confirmation of minutes of sixth meeting held on  
18th October, 1957.

No amendments notified.

Item 52. Matters arising from minutes :-

Item 47. Maralinga - Requirement for Blood  
Counts during inter-trial periods.

Chairman, Members will recall that at the last meeting of the Board [REDACTED] raised the question of blood counts. The Board agreed to defer a decision to allow the matter to be discussed between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This discussion was held and, as a result, [REDACTED] undertook to raise the matter from the medico legal aspect upon his return to the U.K.

A communication in the following terms has recently been received from [REDACTED] :-

"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. The 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 a 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.

[REDACTED]

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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. In addition to blood counts, film badges would continue to be issued to all entrants to the Range.

I should be glad if you would raise this matter with the Board of Management. If it is agreed, we shall include a suitable paragraph in the Maralinga Safety Regulations".

[REDACTED] communication was discussed at a recent meeting of the Safety Committee. The Committee unanimously accepted the proposal and expressed particular support for the continuation of the film badge monitoring.

(NOTE: Although this matter originally referred to inter-trial periods [REDACTED] letter infers that it relates to both the inter-trial and trial periods, therefore, it is suggested that the words "during the inter-trial periods" be deleted from the description of the item).

Item 53. Maralinga - Australian Component of Basic Force for Standby Period 1958.

Chairman. Members will be aware of the present position from a perusal of the following papers which were attached to the Agenda.

- (a) Submission No. 5 containing a summary of the Working Party meeting.
- (b) Communication dated 19th December, 1957, from the Minister for Defence to the Minister for Supply.
- (c) Manning schedule, together with explanatory notes, prepared by [REDACTED] in conjunction with [REDACTED].

Item 54. Seventh Progress Report - Maralinga Range Support Unit.

Chairman. In the absence of [REDACTED] perhaps [REDACTED] would care to answer any questions which may arise from the report.

(NOTE: The report is not yet to hand but I hope to be able to table it at the meeting).

Item 55. Maralinga - 1958 Maintenance and Works Programmes.

[REDACTED] will say :-

"As a result of the recent information that there is unlikely to be a Trials series until 1959, proposals for a reduced Works programme totalling about £A400,000 for completion during 1958 have been forwarded to the U.K. In addition, £A150,000 has been asked for for maintenance and minor new works.

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The figure of £A400,000 is intended to cover certain essential new construction and the overhaul of the evaporator plant, all of which should be completed before the Range Support Unit starts building up for a future Trials series.

No information has yet been received from the U.K. about the extent of the money which will be made available this year".

Item 56. Other business.

