

A 87-034  
21 MAR. 1958

(A161.2)

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY		
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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE:

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"AIRFORCE MELBOURNE"

33/501/46

IN REPLY QUOTE



DEPARTMENT OF AIR

MELBOURNE, S.C.1

21 MAR 1958

Secretary  
Department of Supply  
339 Swanston Street  
MELBOURNE C1

RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF PERSONNEL

1. The attached letter has been received by [REDACTED] C.B.E., Director-General of Medical Services of this Department, from the Air Ministry in London. This letter raises the issue of radiological safety of personnel exposed to the risk of ingesting or inhaling radioactive material during and after atomic weapons tests at Maralinga. You will note that a request is made that facilities should be provided for undertaking radio-chemical urinalysis of personnel, both Service and civilian, who have been exposed to radioactive material.
2. As you know this Department have carried out the blood examinations for Service and civilian personnel and we have supplied a hygiene non-commissioned officer for the Health Physics Team. It is felt that perhaps this rather elaborate and exacting urine testing work should not be the responsibility of this Department.
3. [REDACTED] has taken action to ascertain whether Adelaide or any other centre can meet the requirements through the Commonwealth Department of Health (X-ray and radium laboratories). However, it is the view of the Director-General of Medical Services and the Medical Directors-General of the other Australian Services agree, that the responsibility for, and the application of these precautions should be laid down, and it is requested that this matter be referred to and discussed at the next meeting of the Board of Management, Atomic Weapons Tests.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SECRETARY