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11th August, 1958.

[Decontamination of Blood Counts]

By the time you receive this [redacted] will be on the Island I expect. I have just spoken to him on the phone and he is expecting to take off tomorrow.

Although he is on paper, according to the Task Force Commander's letter to you, on [redacted] staff, the [redacted] all agreed when I saw them together at Aldermaston that technically he would be under [redacted]. I am very anxious that he should as [redacted] has promised to see that he gets as wide an experience as possible and is not scrubbing down aircraft all the time. At the same time we want a really good stay on the aircraft decontamination drill from the medical aspects of course, and suggested amendments for [redacted]'s draft B.R. on this topic of which [redacted] has my copy. [redacted] suggested that [redacted] would be his chief on the island and he [redacted] tells me he has already been given a job and some training in it. He seems very knowledgeable and adjustable and I hope will be a help to all and a nuisance to none. I have advised him to keep out of medical politics and to come to you for advice on all points, other than these of a strictly technical nature, which he should put to [redacted]. In addition Group [redacted] has promised to help him all he can and I am sure he will. So I hope if all works out well, and many thanks for helping us along so vigorously even at this late date.

You may hear from [redacted] of the mild difference of opinion which arose over the question of blood counts for the boys. We have not done anything to cancel our instructions on this so I assume your replacement personnel will be examined; but we have informed the Air Ministry and [redacted] that we will stop doing blood counts as a routine on replacements (if in fact we are doing them, and I suppose we are!) if Grapple H.Q. consider it unnecessary. Our view is that we are the minority force for much of the time, not fully in the trials future by a very long chalk, what in the analysis really determines the probable health hazard, and that we will do our damndest to do whatever Grapple H.Q. works us to. We do not entirely support the R.A.F. view that the blood count is entirely useless - if there is a real element of risk! However, enough of that.

When can we expect to see you home again? I am sorry I cannot come and see you again. But I was lucky to make it at all.

With best wishes to you all.

GH0025

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