



20 NOV 79Z 05 43

Department of State

 003202  
**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

SECRET

NDD924

 PAGE 01 WELLIN 06226 01 OF 02 200459Z  
 ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 /001 W

COPY: 5 OF 13 COPIES

-----093489 200515Z /16

 O 200444Z NOV 79  
 FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9021
SECRET SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 06226

NODIS CHEROKEE

 EO 12065: RUS-1 11/20/09 (MARTINDELL, A.C.), OR-M  
 TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TGEN, NZ  
 SUBJECT: (S) SITREP VI: POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF SOUTHERN  
HEMISPHERE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

 REF: (A) STATE 300534, (B) USDAO WELLINGTON 162253Z NOV 79,  
 (C) WELLINGTON 6051, (D) WELLINGTON 6108,  
 (E) RCI 31912

1. (C) SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES AN UPDATE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND COLLATES INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED BY VARIOUS MISSION ELEMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES, TO ENSURE RECEIPT BY CONCERNED DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS. THE SUM OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE INITIAL REPORT FROM THE NZ INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES (INS) WAS A FALSE ALARM. THE MISSION, HOWEVER, IS CONTINUING TO PURSUE REMAINING LEADS. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) REF B REPORTED THAT 50 LITRES OF RAINWATER OBTAINED FROM DR. O'BRIEN HAD BEEN AIR SHIPPED TO MC CLELLAN CENTRAL LABORATORY, MC CLELLAN AFB, CA, ON NOV. 17. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS 50 LITRE CONSIGNMENT IS NOT FROM THE PRIMARY SAMPLE IN WHICH ELEVATED RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS WERE FIRST OBSERVED. RATHER, AS REPORTED IN PARA 5, REF C, THIS AMOUNT WAS

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

 N  
O  
D  
I  
S  
  
N  
O  
D  
I  
S  
  
N  
O  
D  
I  
S



*Department of State*

**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

SECRET

PAGE 02 WELLIN 06226 01 OF 02 200409Z

TAKEN FROM ANOTHER RAINWATER SAMPLE WHICH THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES FORTUITOUSLY HAD AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF ANOTHER INVESTIGATION. AS REPORTED IN REF D, THE PRIMARY SAMPLE COLLECTED BY THE INSTITUTE HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSUMED IN TESTING.

3. (C) IN ADDITION TO 50 LITRE SAMPLE MENTIONED ABOVE, APPROXIMATELY 40 GALLONS OF NON-PROFESSIONALLY COLLECTED RAINWATER WAS ALSO AIR-SHIPED BY DAO WELLINGTON TO MC CLELLAN LABORATORY ON NOV. 17.

4. (U) IN A PRESS RELEASE DATED NOV. 16, PRIME MINISTER MULDOON HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO HEALTH HAZARD TO NEW ZEALANDERS FROM RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT APPARENTLY DETECTED BY THE NZ INS. MULDOON SAID THE AMOUNT OF CONTAMINATION IS VERY SMALL, ABOUT ONE-THREE HUNDRED THOUSANDTH OF THE LEVEL THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A HEALTH HAZARD, AND THAT THIS IS ONLY ABOUT TWICE THE LEVEL OF RADIATION THAT IS NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

5. (C) RE REF E, A REPLY CONCERNING RAINWATER SAMPLES RECEIVED BY THE DEPT. OF ENERGY HAS BEEN SENT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS TO INR/RMP:C. COHEN.

6. (S) COL. ROBERT C. MCBRYDE, CHIEF, DIAGNOSTICS DIVISION, AFTAC, ARRIVED IN WELLINGTON NOV. 18. THE EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH NZ AUTHORITIES AND COL. MCBRYDE'S INITIAL REPORT FOLLOWS IN PARA 7 AND BELOW. HE WILL BE TRAVELING TO CHRISTCHURCH ON NOV. 20 TO VISIT THE NZ NATIONAL RADIATION LABORATORY AND WILL RETURN TO WELLINGTON FOLLOWING HIS VISIT THERE. COL. MCBRYDE WILL SEND A FOLLOW-UP REPORT AT THAT TIME.

7. (S) TEXT OF COL. MCBRYDE'S REPORT FOLLOWS:

SECRET

N  
O  
D  
I  
S  
  
N  
O  
D  
I  
S  
  
N  
O  
D  
I  
S



*Department of State*

**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

SECRET

PAGE 03

WELLIN 06226 01 OF 02 200459Z

BEGIN TEXT:

- (C) DISCUSSION WERE HELD ON 19 NOV WITH B. J. O'BRIEN AND W. J. MCCABE OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES (INS). LATE IN DAY, A SHORT CONFERENCE WITH MATTHEWS AND GREGORY OF THE NATIONAL RADIATION LABORATORY (NRL) WAS OBTAINED AT INS AND ENROUTE BACK TO WELLINGTON. NRL REPS WERE THOSE PERFORMING INDEPENDENT APPRAISALS OF NZ AIR AND RAINWATER SAMPLES. FOLLOWING INFO UPDATES INS/NRL ACTIVITIES AND MY OBSERVATIONS.

- (C) INS GROUP IS EXPERIENCED IN RADIOACTIVITY ASSAYS AND HAVE CONDUCTED A CONTINUING APPRAISAL OF DEBRIS FALLOUT IN RAIN AND SEAWATER SINCE 1958. SHORT LIVED SPECIES HAVE BEEN NOTED IN EARLIER YEARS AND REPORTED AT LEVELS AT OR BELOW LEVELS CURRENTLY NOTED. THEIR PROCEDURES (IN MY VIEW) ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE PRACTISED BY LOW LEVEL SPECIALISTS IN THAT ION EXCHANGE COLUMNS FOR RARE EARTH SEPARATIONS ARE RE-USED, A PERIODIC BLANK IS RUN RATHER THAN A SIDE BY SIDE BLANK, AND SAMPLE AND ASSAY EQUIPMENT IS NOT TRULY SUITED FOR ISOTOPE IDENTIFICATION AT LEVELS ENCOUNTERED HERE.

- (C) ADDITIONAL INS WORK IN PAST FOUR DAYS HAS MADE EVIDENCE MORE SUSPECT. ORIGINAL LA140 SAMPLE HAS LONG LIVED (PROBABLY PROTACTINIUM) CONTAMINANT AND DECAY HINGES HEAVILY ON FIRST COUNT. BOTH LA140 CONTENT AND VISUAL INDICATION OF DECAY ARE REDUCED IF FIRST COUNT IS DISCARDED (STANDARD PRACTICE AT INS AS WELL AS MCL FOR TIME WAIT FROM MOUNTING PRECIPITATE TO FIRST ASSAY ARE VIOLATED BY THIS DATA POINT). NEW LA140

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



20 NOV 79Z 05 43

Department of State

002203  
**INCOMING TELEGRAM**

SECRET

NDD923

**NODIS**  
**NODIS**  
**NODIS**  
**NODIS**

PAGE 01 WELLIN 06226 02 OF 02 200502Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 /001 W -----093501 200506Z /12

O 200444Z NOV 79  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9022

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 06226

NODIS CHEROKEE

SAMPLE HAD NO NET ACTIVITY. GAMMA SPEC VIEW OF CE SAMPLE SHOWS LOW CE141 CONTENT BY VISUAL INTERPRETATION. OTHER SAMPLES ARE SCHEDULED FOR GAMMA SPEC APPRAISAL (NAI - PULSE HEIGHT ANALYSIS). GAMMA SPEC INCLUDING NAI GUARD RING ASSEMBLED FOR THIS APPRAISAL AND BACKGROUND NOT WELL ESTABLISHED.

- (C) NRL GROUP HAS ANALYZED TWO SEPARATE COVERAGES OF OCT TIME PERIOD WITH NO INDICATIONS OF FRESH DEBRIS IN FIRST ANALYSIS (HIGH RESOLUTION GAMMA SPECTROSCOPY) AND NO RISE IN TOTAL BETA ACTIVITY (MY APPRAISAL) FROM THE SECOND ANALYSIS COMPARED TO BACKGROUND. FIRST ANALYSIS WAS A COMPOSITE OF AIR FILTERS FROM FOUR NZ STATIONS COVERING SEPT AND OCT AS WELL AS FILTRATE FROM HUKITIKA RAINWATER. SECOND ANALYSIS WAS HIGH RAINFALL STATIONS IN NZ PLUS FIJI FOR OCT. ON THE SURFACE, NRL RESULTS APPEAR TO NEGATE INS BUT LACK OF NRL SAMPLES AT WELLINGTON (EXCEPT FOR AIR FILTER) AND DISTANCES BETWEEN COLLECTORS (AS WELL AS MOUNTAIN INFLUENCE) COULD AS EASILY EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE IN RESULTS.

- (S) BEST CHANCE OF VERIFICATION APPEARS TO BE IN RAINWATER SAMPLE PROVIDED BY O'BRIEN. THIS COLLECTION STARTED AT AN IMPRECISE TIME BEFORE 1 AUG AND WAS TERMINATED UPON NOTING THE "FRESH" ACTIVITIES IN THE  
SECRET



Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 02 WELIN 06226 02 OF 02 200502Z

NORMAL INS THREE-MONTH COLLECTION. THIS ALMOST DUPLICATE SAMPLE HAS BEEN SENT TO AFTAC BY USDAO. COLLECTION OF OCTOBER SNOWFALL SAMPLE ON WEST FACE OF SOUTH ISLAND ALPS IS UNDERWAY AND SHIPPING BY USDAO IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

- (S) PROCEDURES, CONTAMINATION IN LA SAMPLE, AND IMPLIED AGE OF CE SUGGEST TO AFTAC REP THAT EVIDENCE OF FRESH FISSION PRODUCTS IN INS SAMPLE IS FLIMSY.

- (U) VISIT TO NRL, CHRISTCHURCH, SCHEDULED FOR 20 NOV AND DEPARTURE FOR LOS ANGELES MCL IS SET ON PA 812, 23 NOV. END TEXT, MARTINDELL

SECRET

NOV-23-1962