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TAKEN FROM ANOTHER RAINWATER SAMPLE WHICH THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES FORCITIOUSLY HAD AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF ANOTHER INVESTIGATION, AS REPORTED IN REP 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-SHIPPED 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 REP E, A REPLY CONCERNING RAINWATER SAMPLES RECEIVED BY THE DEPT. OF ENERGY HAS BEEN SENT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS TO INR/RMPC, LOMEN.

6. (S) COL. ROBERT C. MCBRYDE, CHIEF, DIAGNOSTICS DIVISION, AFAC, ARRIVED IN WELLINGTON NOV. 16. THE EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH NZ AUTHORITIES AND COL. MCBRYDE'S INITIAL REPORT FOLLOWS IN PAKA 7 AND BELOW. HE WILL BE TRAVELLING 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:

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BEGIN TEXT:

- (C) DISCUSSION HERE HELD ON 19 Nov with B. J. O'Brien and W. J. McCard of the New Zealand Institute of Nuclear Sciences (INS). Late in day, a short conference with Mathews 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 RADIODACTIVITY ASSAYS AND HAVE CONDUCTED A CONTINUING APPRAISAL OF DEBRIS FALLOUT IN RAIN AND SEAWATER SINCE 1968. 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 I UN 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 ISO TICE 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 RINGS HEAVILY ON FIRST COUNT. BOTH LA140 CONTENT AND VISUAL INDICATION OF DECAYAGE REDUCED IF FIRST COUNT IS DISCARDED (STANDARD PRACTICE AT INS AS WELL AS MCL FOR TIME KAI FROM MOUNTING PRECIPITATE TO FIRST ASSAY ARE VIOLATED BY THIS DATA POINT). NEW LA140

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INFORMATION

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NODIS CHEMICAL

SAMPLE HAD HIGH ACTIVITY. GAMMA SPECTRUM OF CE SAMPLE
SHOWS LUM 25141 CONTENT BY VISUAL INTERPRETATION. OTHER
SAMPLES ARE SCHEDULED FOR GAMMA SPECTRUM APPRAISAL
(NAI - PULSE HEIGHT ANALYSIS). GAMMA SPECTRUM INCLUDING
NAI GUARD WAS ASSEMBLED FOR THIS APPRAISAL AND BACK-
GROUND NOT WELL ESTABLISHED.

- (C) NRL GROUP HAS ANALYZED TWO SEPARATE COVERAGE
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 HUKITIAK MAINEATER. 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 COLLECTIONS (AS WELL AS MOUNTAIN
INFLUENCE) COULD AS EASILY EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE IN RESULTS.

- (S) BEST CHANCE OF VERIFICATION APPEARS TO BE IN
MAINEATER SAMPLING PROVIDED BY O'BRIEN. THIS COLLECTION
STARTED AT AN INACCURATE TIME BEFORE 1 AUG AND WAS
TERMINATED UPON NOTING THE "FRESH" ACTIVITIES IN THE
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Normal INS three-month collection, this almost duplicate sample has been sent to AFTAC by USDAU. Collection of October snowfall sample on west face of South Island Alps is underway and shipping by USDAU is expected this week.

- (S) Procedures, contamination in LA sample, and implied age of LE suggest to AFTAC REP that evidence of fresh fission products in INS sample is flimsy.
- (U) Visit to NKL, Christchurch, scheduled for 20 Nov and departure for Los Angeles. NCL is set on PA 812, 20 Nov. End Text.

Martinelli

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