

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
BERKELEY AREA OFFICE
P. O. BOX 559
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

November 27, 1950

Captain J. L. Bird
Laboratory Director
U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory
San Francisco Naval Shipyard
San Francisco, California

Subject: STOWAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES ABOARD THE U.S.S.
INDEPENDENCE

Dear Captain Bird:

In furtherance of an initial discussion held this date between Dr. W. H Sullivan and Mr. R. H. Ball of this office it is requested that a study be made of the feasibility of allowing the University of California Radiation Laboratory to stow its radioactive waste aboard the Independence until such time as this ship is sunk.

At the present time the radioactive wastes of the Radiation Laboratory are encased in concrete-filled 55-gallon drums and dumped at sea approximately 50 miles west of San Francisco. The Laboratory presently produces about 50 such drums per month, requiring sea disposal operations monthly. Should there prove sufficient space available aboard the Independence for such waste disposal it appears that considerable economy could be effected through its use.

In the discussion held this date with Dr. Sullivan it appears that, since presently accessible areas are nearly filled with waste, the acceptance of waste drums from this area would require cutting through the deck of the Independence in order to gain access to the port side of the after engine room.

It is estimated that an annual saving of \$4000 - \$5000 could be realized through the use of the above procedure. Your favorable consideration of this proposal is requested if the cost of gaining access to the necessary area of the Independence, together with an estimate of the length of time the ship will remain in this area, indicates a net saving to the government is possible.

Very truly yours,

H. A. Fidler

H. A. Fidler
Area Manager

