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UNDERGRASS TO

Health Physics -
Mosaic Trials
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[Handwritten signature]

22nd December, 1955.

We think that it is likely that the Australians will ask us for filters which have been flown at Mosaic and Buffalo. No doubt they will offer very close security treatment in their Atomic Energy Commission. While I am not very keen on the idea of giving them samples, I do not see how we can refuse. They could, of course, fly 'planes of their own or they could most easily take contaminated soil particles from the close in area.

They would not know that fall-out contamination from close in areas is very different from samples obtained from the cloud, and that only the latter is sufficiently representative to enable quantitative estimates to be made. On the other hand, they are probably very puzzled to know why we fly 'planes to get samples when it would be very much easier to take a few shovelfuls of dirt from the crater.

On balance I am recommending that if they ask us we give them a little piece of the filters, but that we wait a few days so that some of the short-lived key isotopes have decayed a good deal.

Do you wish to consult other people on this question before you give me your considered view?

Yours sincerely,

W. G. Penney
Now Lord Penney

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