

~~RESTRICTED~~ R.P.W.

97/3755

THE WAR OFFICE (PA 1(b))
LONDON S.W. 1.

BRIS

C/6084/PA 1(b)

19th November 1957

UK PERSONNEL FOR DUTY AT MARALINGA

1. All personnel selected for duty at Maralinga may be exposed to radiation in the course of their military duties.
2. Before leaving the United Kingdom they will be examined for fitness to work with radioactive substances and to serve in a tropical climate.
3. The initial medical examination will include a red cell count, packed cell volume, haemoglobin estimation, total white cell count and differential count which will be recorded in absolute numbers and not as percentages, a note will be made as to the frequency or absence of abnormal cells.
4. No person will be employed on duties entailing exposure to radiation whose general health or the state of whose blood is unsatisfactory. If two total white counts and lymphocyte counts are below limits of the normal (see para 7), the individual will not be permitted to take up duties at Maralinga.
5. On return to the United Kingdom the examinations mentioned in para 2 will be carried out except where the average weekly dose is known to have been less than 0.03 RADS per week, and provided there has been no internal radiation hazards. These blood examinations on a group of individuals in the same unit should, preferably, be carried out by the same person each time so as to ensure a uniform and comparable technique.
6. Medical officers and A. Ds. P will scrutinize the report on the blood examination, and their subsequent action will be guided by the following standards:

	Total WBC	Total PMNs	Total LYMPHS	ABNORMAL CELLS
Limits of normal	4500-12100	2250-8200	1100-3800	NIL
Warning level	4500	3000(+2500)	1000	NIL
Rejection level	3000	2000	750	PRESENT

+ For personnel under 19 years of age

A steady and progressive fall in successive blood counts or a fall below the "warning" level indicates that the individual must be removed from all contact with radioactivity until he has been found fit to return to duties involving exposure to radioactivity. The examination will be performed by a medical specialist.