



Secretaría

ESTUDIO RADIOLÓGICO DE LOS ATOLONES DE MURUROA Y FANGATAUFA

Por la importancia que reviste para los países de la región y en tanto el tema de las explosiones nucleares en el Pacífico Sur que fue ampliamente considerado por el Consejo del OPANAL, la Secretaría General del Organismo para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en la América Latina y el Caribe pone en conocimiento de los Estados Miembros el documento PR 96/3 del Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica de fecha 1 de marzo actual (que se anexa), referido a un estudio sobre la situación radiológica en los Atolones de Mururoa y Fangataufa, de la Polinesia Francesa, que llevará a cabo el OIEA como consecuencia de dichas explosiones nucleares.



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RADIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MURUROA AND FANGATAUFA ATOLLS

A study of the radiological situation at the Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia will get underway next week.

The study, which has been requested by the French authorities, will be under the guidance and direction of an International Advisory Committee convened by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Hans Blix and chaired by a nuclear radiation specialist and former member of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dr. Gail de Planque. The Committee, which is expected to hold its first formal meeting in the spring, will bring together experts from Argentina, Australia, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, there will be ex officio experts selected by relevant intergovernmental bodies -- the South Pacific Forum, the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the World Health Organization and the European Commission.

Project management and coordination will be undertaken by the IAEA.

The study will cover not only the current radiological situation at the atolls but also an evaluation of the long-term radiological situation.

The French authorities have agreed to provide the IAEA with information and data required for performing the study. In addition, the study will involve the taking of terrestrial and marine samples which will occur in mid-year. Analysis of the samples will be carried out thereafter by the Agency's laboratories in Seibersdorf (Austria) and Monaco, as well as by a network of laboratories worldwide.

Next week a reconnaissance mission will travel to the atolls to prepare the logistics for the measurements and sample-taking. The study will take approximately 18 months. The study's findings, conclusions and recommendations will be contained in a report of the Committee to be published by the IAEA.

Speaking at a press conference today in Vienna, Dr. de Planque said she was pleased with the experts who have been invited to participate in the Advisory Group. She was confident that the study could be accomplished successfully and that the French authorities would fully cooperate as agreed.