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CONFIDENTIAL

9 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hot Dipping of Food Rations and Medical Items

1. [redacted] of the medical department has requested the assistance of TSS/MD in a burial packaging program. His office has been working along with the British in the development of a survival kit containing food rations and medical supplies for stay-behind use. He wants to hot dip some items in commercial Seal Peel with an aim towards (1) determining the degree of protection afforded against water, various soil conditions, and resistance to glass breakage (due to the good impact characteristics of the plastic), and (2), seeing whether the food and medical goods are in any way made less effective or unusable by the plastic or the dipping process and the high temperatures associated therewith.

25X1

2. [redacted] has the following test program in mind. He wants to hot dip the items from three C-Ration kits, three Assault kits, two boxes of medical supplies (liquids, pills, capsules, and tablets all in glass bottles) and some surgical instruments. The assault food ration kit is about two-thirds the size of the C-Ration kit. Both kits contain food in cans and food, eating utensils, etc., wrapped in paper and/or foil. The canned goods can be dipped as are. Those in paper can perhaps be wrapped in heavy aluminum foil and then dipped.

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Most of the medical supplies, being in glass, can be dipped as are. Medicines known to be adversely affected by heat can be first wrapped in cellulose and then in aluminum foil before being dipped. Mr. [redacted] wants to package some absorbent cotton as is in a medically clean condition, and he wants to sterilize some cotton before packaging it. He can then see if hot dipped, sterilized goods remain sterile by analyzing them later and comparing them with the medically clean but unsterilized goods. The surgical instruments will likewise be sterilized prior to packaging.

Might try in Contaminated Survival Kits.

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3. After the food and medical items have been hot dipped and packaged for burial, they will be cached. Isolation will perhaps be the best place for this. [redacted] suggested a two-year program with only one inspection at the end of the two years. There is sufficient material for three cache locations. Caches might be placed in fresh water, swamp and loam. It is planned to test only plastic hot dip compound.

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4. General Notes:

[redacted]

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A. [] should be present at the time of dipping and inspection of the caches to insure that the sterilized items are not inadvertently rendered non-sterile through carelessness and thus invalidate that phase of the test.

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B. Plastic hot-dip compound is well suited for coating glass bottles because of the impact resistance it affords. This is especially important in case these survival kits are dropped by plane.

C. Hot dipping of plastic squeeze-type bottles, used for some medical supplies, has proven unsatisfactory because the heat of the dip tank seriously distorts and warps the plastic bottles.

D. [] mentioned that items were dipped in Seal Peel at Okinawa at a dip temperature of 125°F!

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does not seem possible

E. The medical department cached some medical supplies at [] a couple years or so ago. They were packaged in a black tar paper material and sealed with tape. When inspected eighteen months after burial, the caches in dry ground were in good condition; but those in wet, swampy ground were by and large deteriorated. These caches were resunk. They are still there. [] does not know where they are.

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F. This program is of interest to us because it ties in with our current package testing program. We can perhaps arrange for the work to be done at [] or TSS/TSL.

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will be done at TSL

G. [] will arrange to have the medical supplies laboratory analyzed if they pass the visual inspection at the time of uncaching.

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DD/P/TSS/MD []

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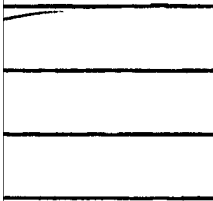
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Distribution:

Orig. - File: Burial Packaging

1 - MD Chrono

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