

# AEC: Cannikin to Not Disturb Poison Gas

The latest environmental statement of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, published in June, has all the assurances of previous reports—plus one. Nuclear testing this fall will not disturb containers of poison gas dumped near the testing ground.

It has been determined that the U.S. Army disposed of a large number of containers of mustard gas and Lewisite in 1947 by dumping them in the sea near Attu Island about 240 miles from Amchitka, the report notes.

"There was the question of whether Cannikin (name of the next atomic test) might cause these materials to be released in the ocean. At a distance of about 240 miles, the Cannikin explosion would appear as a simple seismic wave with no significant disturbance of the sea floor.

"Since the disturbance would be minimal at the location of

the mustard gas and Lewisite containers, the Cannikin test should have no effect upon those containers."

Scientists also report that there have been three severe earthquakes in that area since the gas was dumped.

"Each of these seismic disturbances has probably subjected the containers to motions larger than those which will occur in connection with Cannikin," the report concludes.