

Admiral H. Laont Pugh

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June 15, 1954

As I now visualize the objectives of these continuing investigations, they will fall under the following headings:

1. Complete physical examination and interval history;
2. Hematological studies including quantitative examinations such as hematocrit, white blood cell count, differential count, platelet, enumeration and bone marrow studies;
3. Special dermatological investigation employing both color and black and white photography as well as skin biopsies if the latter are indicated;
4. Ophthalmological studies with special reference to the lens;
5. Special growth studies of children including attention to the development of dentition;
6. The progress of pregnancies and the status of new-born infants;
7. Quantitative studies of internally deposited radioisotopes by means of urinary excretion measurement, external radiological measurement and localization together with such radiography as may be useful;
8. Environmental surveys of the affected islands and atolls, and appropriate examination of animals left on the contaminated islands.

While detailed environmental studies will be in progress under the direction of this Division, it is very desirable that members of the medical party be kept closely in touch with environmental investigations and that they be free to collect such specimens as they deem desirable. Naturally, the results of all other surveys and ecological studies will be made available to this group as well.

The financial responsibility for these studies and investigations is assumed by the Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, and the details of the transfer of funds and accounts can be developed by our respective budget officers along the usual pattern.

The Rongelap inhabitants are now in temporary quarters on one of the small islands of the Majuro Atoll where they will be for the better part of a year. Studies may anticipate extensive support and cooperation from the Trust Territories hospital on Majuro; however the special studies in general require equipment not commonly available to smaller hospital units. It is probable that nearly all of the equipment will have to be supplied as a part of the project.

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Admiral H. Lamont Pugh

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I hope that circumstances will permit the continuing participation by members of your Command in this very important and fundamental medical program.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Bugher, M.D.
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

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