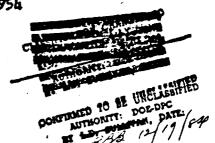
June 15, 1954

Rear Admiral H. Lamont Pugh Surgeon General Ravy Department Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral Pughs



The first detonation of the recent series of tests in the Marshall Islands area produced an emergency situation due to the exposure to radioactive fallout of a considerable number of Marshall Islands residents and personnel of the Task Force. Due to the prompt response of the Faval Command at Ewajalein and the medical personnel of the Maval Medical Research Institute and the Maval Radiological Defense Laboratory, it was possible for the Joint Task Force to deal promptly and effectively with the problems presented.

The continuing situation is that the High Commissioner for the Trust Territories is responsible for and has the authority to take whatever steps are necessary to obtain adequate scientific studies and medical care for the Trust Territories people within his charge. In accordance with those considerations and in an understanding concerning the manner in which the various agencies shall act, the AhC is responsible for the continuation of the radical surveillance of the exposed Marshall Islands residents. The Havy has agreed to give such logistic support as may be required from time to time in the execution of this project. Both agencies will operate through the administrative structure of the High Commissioner for the Trust Territories.

It would seem most desirable to me that the continuing studies be kept as far as possible in the hands of those who so expertly have conducted the original investigation. This will require periodical visits by small groups of radiologists and technicians to the population groups concerned. For the first year these visits will probably need to be made approximately at quarterly intervals. Thereafter they may be made with less frequency as developments show to be prudent. I understand informally that this concept is agreeable to those concerned, and that both Captain W. E. Kellum, and Captain W. L. Turney, Commanding Officer, Haval Radiological Defense Laboratory, are of the opinion that small parties under the command of appropriate personnel at NEOL and NEOL might alternate for the present at least in making these expeditions. This would serve, I trust, to minimize the disruption of scientific programs at the two institutions.

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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:
- 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 us supplied as a part of the project.

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Admiral H. Lamont Pugh

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June 15, 1954

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, K.D. Director Division of Mology and Medicine

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