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EMES:AHS

December 11, 1957

Dr. L. R. Donaldson
Director,
Applied Fisheries Laboratory
University of Washington
Seattle 5, Washington

Dear Dr. Donaldson:

We have talked with both Mr. Sanders and Dr. Conard about the Rongelap ecological survey and as a consequence have the schedule of operations for Rongelap.

Quoting from the TWX sent by Mr. Sanders, "Construction rad-safe station is scheduled for Dec. 12 to Jan. 6. LST-618 will be at Rongelap during this period".

Continuing, "Conard survey supported by LST-1083 scheduled to depart Kwaj Feb. 18-20 and return Kwaj approximately March 12".

Further, "AWS and rad-safe personnel to activate Rongelap station leave Eniwetok on LST-664 at 2000, March 9, and arrive Rongelap 0700, March 11. LST-664 departs Rongelap at 1800, March 12, for Uterik and Wotho and arrive Eniwetok 0700, March 20".

Since you are in need of living accomodations and transportation within the lagoon at Rongelap for your ecological studies it would appear that, if available, support from Dr. Conard's party would be good timing and most convenient. Inquiry has been made of Dr. Conard about the availability of support and he expressed a personal interest in cooperating with you but suggested that it would be necessary to clear through Navy channels.

The first step was to talk with LCDR George A. Hamilton in the CNO Office, Washington, D.C. It was his opinion that authorization by CNO would not be needed unless your group rode on the LST from Kwajalein to Rongelap. Otherwise, the arrangements would be made with Dr. Conard and the skipper of the LST. Dr. Conard has written to the skipper inquiring about two items of support: (1)living accomodations for 4 to 6 men; (2) boat transportation within the lagoon. There may be a shortage of officer space and some difficulty in finding available boat and crew for providing transportation within the lagoon.

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We have not committed you to a schedule but felt that it was necessary, because of the time element, to make this inquiry without knowing if this plan fits into your schedule. I would suggest that you write immediately to Dr. Conard, with a copy sent here, stating:

(1) if you wish this support at the time scheduled, and if so,

(2) the number of people in your party, and

(3) a rough schedule of your needs for boat transportation within the lagoon.

If boat transportation from the LST is not available we may be able to arrange for an additional boat to be put aboard or to arrange with the natives for use of one of their boats. They now have a boat - not an outrigger - that would be very suitable for the job you have to do.

The LST-1083 (for the Conard survey) will have several items of heavy equipment and will leave Long Beach, California in time to reach Pearl Harbor by February 1. The itinerary will be from Long Beach to Pearl Harbor to Kwajalein to Rongelap to Kwajalein to Japan. I imagine that if you should have equipment to be sent to Rongelap it could be sent by the 1083 if delivered to Long Beach before mid-January.

Sincerely yours,

Allyn H. Seymour
Marine Biologist
Environmental Sciences Branch
Division of Biology & Medicine

cc: Dr. Conard

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