

1 December 1978

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Department of Energy
P.O.B. 29929
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Dear Bill,

This letter is in response to a telephone request I received from Harry Brown late yesterday afternoon regarding my opinions as to the feasibility of small helicopter support for the Medical Survey of the Marshall Islands.

As background for the following discussions, I'd like to restate an opinion which I think we have discussed previously in your office, pertaining to the long-range logistic plans for the ENL medical survey. First, it would appear that sometime in the near future that the geographic area assigned to ENL might expand appreciably, i.e., to include the people of Bikini and Eniwetok. This decision is pending at DOE/DOI. This, of course, would tremendously enlarge the geographic area to be covered by the medical survey teams and would present severe logistic problems for slow shipboard support. As we have discussed in the past, the possibility of establishing small independent examining facilities on each of the islands and supporting these installations by aircraft certainly should be considered carefully. The type of aircraft to be used again presents a variety of options. I understand that a PBX 5A will be available from the University of Hawaii. I have no further information as to the dates of availability or priority for its utilization by this program.

Another option which I have been considering is the ultimate use of a heavy helicopter of the SH-3 type that would have both the range and operating characteristics necessary for outer island support. Both of these options would greatly increase the facility with which we could evacuate patients from the islands in the event of medical emergencies.

Of course, all of this is conjecture at this point until some final decision is made as to the Bikini and Eniwetok populations. Once that decision has been made and we have some idea of our future patient loading, I think we ought to have a logistic meetings to develop some short- and long-term plans concerning these options.

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