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BIO-MED, Dr. CONARD
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REMARKS:				

Mr. Oscar de Brum
 District Administrator
 Marshall Islands District
 Trust Territory of the
 Pacific Islands
 Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Oscar,

I have just read Dr. Conard's February 5 letter to you, wherein he discusses his forthcoming visit to Bikini. For the purpose of this letter, I am assuming that our Headquarters in Washington will approve your request for medical examinations of the Bikini people. On that assumption, and considering the misunderstandings which have prevailed in the past, I think it most important that there be a careful explanation to the Bikini people at the beginning of this visit.

It must be made clear to the people being examined (and perhaps to their counsel) that the radiation environment in which they have been living is no cause for medical concern and would not justify or require medical examination or procedures. The medical doctors who are to be in the Marshalls will be there in behalf of the Rongelap and Utirik people as they have been for many years. And also, as they have done for many years with your consent and approval, they will render normal health care to any people who request it. It is this normal health care which will be offered the Bikini people on a purely humanitarian basis.

As Dr. Conard indicates, he personally will be at Bikini for only a few hours. But I have urged him, because of past misunderstandings, to meet personally with the Bikini people and answer whatever questions they may have as to his past, present or future actions. Because we will be chartering a C-54 from Kwajalein for this trip, I am tentatively planning to go to Bikini myself just for those few hours (on April 4, Kwajalein time) to assist Dr. Conard and to answer any questions which

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Dr. Med

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Mr. Oscar de Brum

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are in my area of responsibility. You of course would be most welcome to accompany us, but if you cannot be there I would urge that Tony go along to help with the discussions.

On the same trip, I hope to spend a day or two at Majuro and would appreciate being advised of which would be most convenient for you - just before, or just after the visit to Bikini.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

ROGER RAY

Roger Ray, Assistant Manager
for Environment & Safety

cc: Dr. R. A. Conard, BNL
Upton, New York

bcc: W. J. Stanley, Dir., PASO

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