

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y. 11973
TEL. AREA CODE 516 YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

April 1, 1966

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

Honorable Wilfred Goding
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1228, ERDA #3
BIO-MED Dr. Conard
FOLDER OLTHAW 12/ 1966

Dear Mr. Goding:

The 12-year medical survey of the people of Rongelap and Utirik Islands who were exposed to fallout has been completed. A further communication will be issued in the near future covering details of the survey. The purpose of this letter is to request your concurrence and help in regard to plans to carry out special medical examinations and possibly surgery in the United States in May of five Rongelap people with disease of the thyroid glands believed to be due to radioactive fallout. There are now 18 cases of thyroid abnormalities among the relatively small population of 69 people, an increase of five since last September. You will remember that six of these cases have been operated upon, one of whom turned out to have a cancer of the thyroid. In view of the importance of these findings, early hospitalization is indicated in the case of these five additional people. The Trust Territory personnel on the survey concurred regarding the necessity of these special examinations.

The following Rongelap people are involved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Parents</u>
	13	F	Rongelap	
	46	F	Rongelap	
	13	F	Ebeye	
	13	F	Ebeye	
	20	F	Majuro	

Billiet Edmond, a school teacher at Rongelap, who speaks excellent english, has agreed to accompany the patients as interpreter. He indicates that school will not be in session during the time of the proposed trip.

The following plan is proposed: (1) Before May 1--pick up the people at Rongelap (, and , when one of the three ships in the Marshalls stops there, bringing them to Ebeye. Also return from Majuro to Ebeye. (2) May 2--6--the Trust Territory representatives at Kwajalein *McKay* indicate that their wives would be glad to help purchase a few necessary items of clothing for the Marshallese group (to be paid for by the AEC). (3) May 6--MAC flight to Hickam. (It is presumed that your office will issue the necessary

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Mr. Wilfred Coding
High Commissioner-TTPT

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clearance or travel papers.) The group will be met at Hickam by an AEC representative who will arrange overnight accommodations and subsistence. (4) May 7--commercial flight Honolulu to New York. Reservations and tickets will be on hand upon arrival of the group in Honolulu. I will meet the flight at arrival at Kennedy and take the group to Brookhaven National Laboratory.

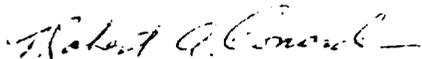
Their stay in the United States will be approximately a month. We will arrange their return transportation at the end of that time.

I have written permission for this hospitalization and surgery from the parents of the children in the group.

As was the case previously, the AEC will absorb the expenses associated with these examinations and transportation to the United States. I understand that the AEC in Honolulu is in contact with your office concerning details of billing procedures for such charges as the MAC flight, etc.

Your concurrence and assistance in carrying out these plans will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Conard, M.D.

RAC:bb

cc: Mrs. Van Cleve
Dr. C. L. Dunham
Dr. V. P. Bond
Director of Medical Services, Saipan
DISTAD, Marshalls
District Director of Medical Services, Marshalls
Dr. J. B. Deisher
Trust Territory Representative, Kwajalein
AEC, Honolulu
Director of Medical Services, Ebeye

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