

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y. 11973

TEL. AREA CODE 516 YAPHANK 4 6262

REF ID: A66001

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

April 1, 1966

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

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:

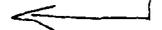
<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Parents</u>
	13	F	Rongelap	
	46	F	Rongelap	
	13	F	Ebeye	
	13	F	Ebeye	
	20	F	Majuro	

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 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

*From Call to
Concord.
of 82 Exposed.
64 on Rongelap 175
18 on Ailinginal 691*

*14 still living - 1 adult
from male
(in table)*



April 1, 1966

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

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 1966

TO: Dr. V. P. Bond

FROM: R. A. Conard

SUBJECT: Results of Thyroid Survey During
1966 Medical Survey Marshall
Islands--Preliminary Report

Rongelap Examinations

Total incidence of thyroid nodules - 16 cases (includes 1 Ailingnae)
Obvious hypothyroidism - 2 cases
18 cases thyroid pathology

Age Specific Incidence

(In 55 living of original 64 Rongelap heavily exposed group)

<u>Age at Exposure</u>	<u>No. Exposed</u>	<u>Nodules</u>		<u>Hypothyroidism</u>		<u>Total Abnormalities</u>	
		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>% of Group</u>
1- 5	13	9	69.0	2	15.0	11	84.6
6-10	5	4	80.0	-	-	3	80.0
11-15	5	0	0	-	-	0	0
16-20	6	0	0	-	-	0	0
>20	26	2	7.7	-	-	2	7.7
	<u>55</u>	<u>15</u>				<u>16</u>	

Individual Status Regarding Nodules; Effects of Therapy With Hormone

- 6 Cases with surgery--no recurrence noted. (1 case of malignancy of thyroid not completely studied yet.) 43 y ♀
- 1 Case with definite nodule--showed regression of nodule. 3 other cases with questionable changes in September showed no detectable abnormalities in March (2 on hormone, 1 not).
- 3 Cases--nodules did not regress or slightly increased (though presumably on T-4 therapy).
- 2 Cases with questionable changes in September (not included in statistics at that time) showed definite abnormalities in March. Presumably on hormone.
- 3 New cases of nodular goitre. However, all 3 on inadequate hormone therapy.
- 1 Case with nodule in September not seen in March since she was away on a distant island (included in above table, however).
- 4 In-utero children--no nodules or growth impairment has been noted (not included in table).
- 5 Ailingnae children--no nodules; 1 adult with nodule.

67 R. (200-600 rem) in destruction

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

Recommended for Return to U.S. for Further Study and Surgery, Possibly in May 1966 *

Permission was obtained from the parents of children listed below for hospitalization and surgery.

- 1) F, 13 5 mm. nodule right lower pole; probably new. Taking hormone.
- 2) F, 13 Hard 5 mm. nodule left lobe. On therapy.
- 3) F, 13 Nodular enlargement entire gland. Firm 5 mm. nodule left lobe. On therapy.
- 4) F, 20 1 cm. nodule left lobe. On therapy.
- 5) F, 46 5 mm. nodule midline. About same size as 6 months ago. on hormone.

It was decided that since the other 3 new cases (3 boys) with nodular goitre had not had adequate hormone treatment they would be given a treatment trial for six months, and these cases would be reevaluated at the end of that time.

Utirik Thyroid Examinations

About 110 of exposed people examined.
About 60 exposed as children showed no thyroid pathology.
In older adults two cases of nodules: 47, F; 57, F.

Control Populations at Rongelap and Utirik 3 of 794

Between the two islands nearly ¹⁷⁴200 unexposed people had thyroids examined.
Around 2% had nodules, all in older age groups (>47 years of age).
No unexposed children with nodules.

* to be accompanied by Interpreter (Billist, School Teacher)

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED