

May 4, 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SEABORG  
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THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER (Signed) Earl DeLoach

100-2-10002, MH453 Volume 1

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF THYROID NODULES AMONG THE MARSHALLESE  
 EXPOSED TO FALLOUT FROM THE BIKINI TEST OF MARCH 1, 1954

In our last memorandum on this subject, October 11, 1965, it was noted that a cumulative total of 11 instances of nodular thyroid glands had been found in the 69 surviving Marshallese who had been exposed to fallout from the subject test while on Rongerik and on Ailinginae. All but one of these cases were in young people who were less than 10 years old at the time of exposure. The single exception was in a 41-year-old woman (approximately 30 at time of exposure) who was found to have a carcinoma of the thyroid at operation.

Dr. Robert A. Conrad of the Medical Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, and leader of the annual (or more often) medical surveys of these people, has just returned from the latest survey conducted during February and March of 1966. He reports that an additional five cases of nodular thyroids have been diagnosed in this group. The present cumulative incidence is shown in the following table.

Age at Exposure	Number Exposed	Total Incidence of Nodules Through March 1966	
		Number	Percent
1-5	16	9	56
6-10	9	4	44
11-15	7	0	--
16-20	5	0	--
20	<u>32</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
	69	16	25

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January 17, 1967

Dr. Conard visited Rongelap in September 1966 and found these patients to be without new medical problems.

The nodules in the thyroids of the remaining patients seem to be controllable by the administration of thyroid hormone. Decisions regarding possible surgery for them and further medical regimens are being deferred until the next annual survey of the Marshallese next month by Dr. Conard and his team.

C. L. Dunham, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

Attachment:  
Copy of 5/4/66 Memo

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