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JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

403288

MEMORANDUM

May 13, 1966

To: All Committee Members

From: John T. Conway, Executive Director

Subject: Information Concerning Occurrence of Nodular Thyroid Abnormality  
Among Marshallese

The attached AEC letter dated May 12, 1966 informs the Joint Committee of the results of a recent medical survey of the Marshallese exposed to fallout from the March 1, 1954 test in the Pacific.

There were 25 Marshallese children, 10 years of age and younger, exposed to whole body radiation doses up to about 175 roentgens plus thyroid exposures ranging as high as 700 to 1400 rems. Of these, 11 (44%) have shown evidence of non-cancerous thyroid nodules for which they have been receiving treatment. The overall statistics show that of the 69 Marshallese exposed a total of 16 (23%) have shown evidence of thyroid nodules. There was one case reported of cancer of the thyroid observed in a woman who was approximately 30 years of age at the time of exposure.

The normal incidence of occurrence of thyroid nodules in Marshallese is not known with precision. However, 194 unexposed Marshallese of all ages were examined and 3 (1.5%) were found to have non-cancerous thyroid nodules.

Appearance of thyroid nodules appears to be a latent effect since none were discovered during the first 9 years following the exposure.

RG 128 JCAE

Attachments:

Copy of dtd 5/12/66 in English  
to Conway

Location National Archives

Access No. Box 311

1946-57  
Folder General Correspondence

Fallout, Vol. 10, Quarterly Statement

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