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August 5, 1965

Mr. John T. Conway
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

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Dear Mr. Conway:

On March 25, 1965, you were advised of the three added Rongelap people with thyroid tumors noted during the 1965 annual medical survey of the Rongelap Islanders who were exposed to fallout from the Bravo Test in 1954. Dr. Robert Conard, leader of the survey team, Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, has advised Dr. C. L. Dunham, Director AEC's Division of Biology and Medicine, that these Rongelapese (the two males, 12 and 17 years of age, and one woman, 41 years of age) were brought to this country for study at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, and during the week of July 5, 1965, were successfully operated on at the Lahey Clinic in Boston.

The two teen-age boys were found each to have a solitary benign tumor of the thyroid. These nodules were removed surgically. The middle-aged woman was found to have a carcinoma of the thyroid gland with some metastases to local structures. A sub-total thyroidectomy was carried out. In her case, the prognosis is fair. She will be given 30 millicuries of Iodine-131 in the hope of destroying any persisting thyroid tissue.

It is interesting that the dose of radioiodine to the thyroid gland in the case of the woman is estimated at about 160 rads, or approximately one-tenth that to the glands of the youths.

These three Rongelap natives have now been returned to their island in satisfactory condition. They were accompanied in their travel and treatment by Dr. John Iaman, native medical practitioner, Trust Territory.

We shall keep you informed of any new developments.

JCAE

Sincerely yours,

Assistant General Manager for
Research and Development

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