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DEC 17 1954

Chief of Naval Operations
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the successful conclusion of the first of a series of medical examinations and of plans for the second of the series of such examinations of the residents of the Marshall Islands exposed to radioactive fall-out as a result of the March 1, 1954 detonation of the most recent test series in the Pacific.

As you know, these examinations are being sponsored by the AEC and conducted by medical teams from the NRI and the NRDL under the alternate leadership of Drs. E. P. Cronkite and V. P. Bond. The first medical examination was conducted successfully during September, 1954, and the second examination is now tentatively scheduled for some time during the Spring, 1955. The specific dates will be determined jointly by the Commanding Officer, NRI, the Commanding Officer, NRDL, and the AEC. The second examination will be under the project leadership of Dr. E. P. Cronkite, formerly of NRI and presently employed in the Medical Division of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, an AEC installation.

The cooperation and assistance of your command and CINCPACFLT in facilitating this mission will be very much appreciated. Specifically, the medical team will require:

- (1) Authorization for incorporation of high priority travel status in orders.
- (2) MATS transportation to Kwajalein and from Kwajalein to Majuro, for a group of approximately 12 to 14 personnel and approximately 5,000 pounds of personal and scientific gear.

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Chief of Naval Operations

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For purposes of administrative and fiscal convenience the Bureau of Ships will administer this medical examination program for both NRDL and NMRI. The Departments of State and Interior, the Commander of JTF-7, and the Chief, AFSWP, have been informed of this planned second visit. It is our understanding that AFSWP is planning to send a representative in the person of Capt. Robert J. Johnson, Deputy Surgeon AFSWP, Field Command. The Department of Interior has been requested to make arrangements for housing and messing facilities.

Sincerely yours,

K. D. Nichols
General Manager

cc: CO, NMRI
CO, NRDL
General Manager
Dr. Cronkite, BNL

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