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Dwight Ish, Assistant General  
Manager for Administration

November 20, 1959

H. A. Stenwood, Jr., Assistant Director for  
Administration, Division of Biology & Medicine

RE SECRETARY SEATON'S CALL TO CHAIRMAN RE COME  
RELATIVE TO MARSHALLESE PEOPLE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

STUBOOL: DWA:HAS

Attached are copies of exchange of correspondence relative to the  
above subject.

The pertinent points seem to be as follows:

(1) There is no medical examination of the Marshallese people  
planned for until approximately the spring of 1961; even then  
it will be subject to review and approval by the officials of  
the Trust Territory.

(2) Dr. Robert Conrad of the Brookhaven National Laboratory and  
leader of the early leg examination team is presently visiting the  
Islands but only for the purpose of conferring with medical officials  
there and with the approval of the Trust Territory.

(3) It seems unfortunate that the Trust Territory officials consider  
the medical surveys as using the Bangalap people as "guinea pigs" in  
carrying out a scientific experiment, when in fact there is considerable  
importance to continuity in the observations of the people for the  
early detection of significant changes that may be related to radia-  
tion so that they can be treated as soon as possible. In this connec-  
tion there has been a rise in the body burden of the Bangalap people  
since their return to Bangalap although this in itself is not neces-  
sarily of great significance.

In summary there <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ no medical examinations or area surveys  
planned in the near future.

Attachments:  
cc of memo dtd 11/3/59  
cc of memo dtd 11/6/69  
cc of ltr dtd 11/6/59

*O/c Dept of Navy (Followup)*

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