

403793

R

The four year ... of Rongelap Atoll, Marshall Islands, who were ... in March, 1954 was completed in March, ... was transported to Rongelap by Navy LST for the ...

Complete history and ... including growth and development studies in the children, ... ova and parasite survey, and whole body ... burden of isotopes were carried out. The data ... analyzed, and only a few brief preliminary statements ... in regard to the latest examinations.

The people were found to ... health and their nutrition satisfactory. A few residual changes ... still present in the skin of some people at the former ... burns. But these changes were non-symptomatic ... by mild atrophy, scarring, and pigment aberrations. ... of any pre-malignant or malignant changes have been seen. ... growth of hair, no further evidences of epilation have been noted. ... the skin changes there have been no outward evidence of any radiation effects. There have been no symptoms or diseases that could be ... radiation effects. The incidence of diseases was found to be ... in the irradiated as in the unirradiated Marshallese people used for comparison.

There have been three deaths in the irradiated group. In no case could the cause of death be associated with radiation effects. This incidence of death appears to be about the same as in unexposed Marshallese people.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON NATIONAL REPOSITORY RECORDS CENTER  
COLLECTION 32681-6  
BOX No B-4-1  
FOLDER N/A

1181923

of the children who were irradiated at seven years. However, the numbers are small, and no satisfactory statistical analysis has been analyzed yet.

Hematological studies of the blood have returned to the levels of unirradiated controls, with the possible exceptions of the lymphocytes and platelets, which may be still very slightly below the unirradiated levels. In complete recovery appears to be mainly of the lymphocytes. There has been no indication of any ill effect upon the blood.

Lack of vital statistics for irradiated people make it difficult to evaluate some findings. However, fertility does not appear to have been affected, and the same number of children have been born of irradiated parents. Pregnancies have been normal with about the same number of miscarriages or stillbirths occurring in both groups. Infants born of parents who were irradiated or born of irradiated parents appeared normal.

No long-term effects have been observed. No malignancies or leukemia have been observed. Degenerative diseases, no premature aging or shortening of life span, radiation induced cataracts of the eyes, and no genetic effects have been noted.

The body burden of radioisotopes has declined rapidly, and as of March, 1957 consisted mainly of Cs<sup>137</sup>, I<sup>131</sup>, Fr<sup>244</sup> and Sr<sup>90</sup> in amounts far below the accepted tolerance levels. The present body burden appears to be slightly increased above last year due to slight environmental con-

tamination of their island, but the levels are still believed to be far below tolerance levels. We suffered an unfortunate loss of our recent data on whole body gamma spectroscopy since a returning plane with engine trouble had to jettison this data as well as much equipment. So this important data has not been analyzed. We hope to go back to Rongelap with the steel room to reobtain this data during May.

The people appear quite happy on their home island of Rongelap. They are most pleased with the new village with its fine homes, community buildings, water supply, etc. They seem to be making an excellent adjustment.

Robert A. Conard, M. D.  
Head, ABC team for Medical  
Studies of Marshallese