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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
P. O. BOX 542
AGANA, GUAM, M. I.

COMMERCIAL CABLE ADDRESS
HICOTT

In reply refer to:

September 2, 1960

Dr. C. L. Dunham
Director, Division of
Biology and Medicine
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Dunham:

It has been brought to my attention that Dr. R. Conard apparently is planning a fairly large scale medical survey to be carried out at Rongelap next spring which will involve whole body count examinations of the population.

Up to the present time all correspondence on this subject has dealt with "possible future surveys" which were to be decided upon after the March 1960 findings were reviewed. No official approval of a trip of any sort for 1961 has yet been given at this end. I realize that in a recent letter dated August 25, 1960 to Dr. Conard I concurred in the possible future use of the M/V Roque for a whole body survey. However, since at no time have I given specific approval for a visit in the spring of 1961, this letter is not to be construed as approval for a visit next year. It was an answer to a general request by Dr. Conard as to whether our ship was capable of being used for a survey of this sort.

A review of the correspondence from Dr. Conard to various individuals all indicate that a trip in 1961 was a possibility not an actuality. A letter dated August 2, 1960 from Dr. Conard to Mr. Neas, District Administrator of the Marshall Islands District, states that he was attempting to work out a schedule of examinations which he would submit to our Director of Public Health in the near future for approval. We have not received such a schedule.

I am attaching for your information, copies of memoranda prepared by Mr. Neas and Dr. Macdonald containing their recommendations made after the March 1960 medical survey and after consultation with Dr. Conard. In short, these recommendations are that the annual survey should be discontinued effective this coming year, 1961, and that a body burden

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examination should be scheduled only every five to seven years. This would put the next body burden survey in either 1963 or 1967 not in 1961 as Dr. Conard now is attempting to arrange. A review of Dr. Conard's report which you sent to the Department of Interior on May 5, 1960 also does not indicate that the March 1960 findings were unusual or unexpected.

I concur completely in the recommendations made by our Director of Public Health and the District Administrator of the Marshalls District. Accordingly it is my opinion that a medical survey such as Dr. Conard proposes for next spring is not essential. We request, therefore, that the next examination be put off until 1963. Any miscellaneous data required in the interim can be obtained by our medical staff in line with previous agreements with Dr. Conard.

You will recall that last year an agreement was reached with your office on the curtailment of the frequency and scope of scientific surveys at Rongelap. Our decision to postpone the next medical survey until 1963 is in line with this agreement.

Sincerely,

D. H. Nucker
High Commissioner

cc: Dr. Conard

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