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REPORT ON TRIP TO MAJURO WITH MEDICAL TEAM TO RESURVEY THE STATE OF HEALTH OF THE RONGELAP PEOPLE - MARCH 25 - 30, 1955, INCLUSIVE.

First a word to the effect that the cooperation of COMNAVSTA Kwajalein (Captain Eason) could not have been better. There was full cooperation in every respect in providing air transportation to and from Majuro, as well as providing needed logistic support for the resurvey. I was on the island of Majuro from March 25 to March 30 inclusive. Mr. Nease, the District Administrator for the Marshall Islands, and his staff provided excellent cooperation, arranging for the use of the hospital, the loan of hospital personnel, and the provision of transportation for the Rongelap people between the islands of Njit and Majuro.

The Rongelap people were generally healthy, cheerful, and as cooperative as could be expected under the circumstances. In fact, they were generally more cooperative than the native Majuro islanders, who are somewhat jealous of the extra attention their northern, and in their opinion their less civilized fellow Marshall islanders, are receiving. Medical examinations and laboratory work went off without a hitch, and although I did not have the final report at hand, it will indicate that the blood counts are returning closer to normal, that as far as the white counts are concerned, each individual is now within normal limits, though the minimum is below that of the control group. _____ the old diabetic, seemed no worse than he was a year ago. His cataracts were ripe for operation, and Commander McPherson, at the request of the native ophthalmologist, operated on one of _____ eyes and did a number of other cataract operations, including one or two on congenital cataracts in infants. This activity on the part of Commander McPherson was very well received, and I am sure has left a very pleasant taste in the mouths of the natives, as well as the district administration.

I did not discuss except in general and hypothetical terms the question of when the Rongelapese could return to their home atoll, inasmuch as I was not in possession of the full facts, but did have indications that the shellfish and clams were carrying well above a permissible amount of radioactivity.

Prior to my leaving Majuro, the radio communication between Jultit and Majuro came in, and the HSCAD, Mr. Nease, was most enthusiastic about it. Incidentally, he went to great pains on several occasions to compliment Mr. Wynokop and also Holmes and Harver personnel as being most efficient and accomplishing their purposes on schedule and with essentially no inconvenience to either their staff or to the natives.

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GUAM

I arrived in Guam on the 31st of March, a few hours after Mr. Mucker, the Deputy High Commissioner for the Trust Territory, had returned from the States. I was able to have a visit with him, in which we discussed things generally, particularly with respect to the return of the natives and the possibility that one could really rely on them to comply with any limitations on activity or eating habits which might be required. Unfortunately, Mr. Tobin, the anthropologist, was off on another atoll, so I was unable to discuss the matter with him, nor had Mr. Mucker been able to discuss it with him. It was obvious that Mr. Mucker would lean very heavily on Tobin's estimate of the situation.

In the evening I had visits with Dr. H. E. MacDonald, the Public Health Officer for the High Commissioner. He turned out to be a highly intelligent ex-neurosurgeon from Boston, who along with Dr. Jaffee, the dentist, promised to get us some teeth as they become available from the Rongelapese and Utirikians. Dr. Jaffee had just come from Utirik and reported those people as being 100% healthy, happy, and very active. He said that contrary to the time prior to March 1, 1954, when these people were a little on the shabby side, they now had the neatest and best policed community in the Marshall Islands.

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