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REFER: R

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 Health Division Leader
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Dear Tom:

I have just returned from the Seven Year Follow-Up Study of the Rongelap people and was pleased that things went very well indeed. I found your letter on my return with several queries with regard to these studies. In regard to the w.b.c.'s, we have not yet analyzed the data but it appears as though the white counts are still on the low side this year. I am not sure whether the control counts will be low; the explanation for this is not apparent at this time.

You referred to the history of nausea and vomiting the first two days after exposure. Careful reviews of the case histories during this time did reveal that the people on Rongelap Island had extensive anorexia and nausea during this period and some few vomited. This seemed to be a true state of affairs and did not seem to be based on emotional disturbance when viewed in the light of the fact that people on Ailingnae, Rongerik, and Uterik did not complain of these symptoms. So it would seem that doses around 150 to 175 r represent the threshold for these complaints.

I greatly appreciate your continuing interest in these studies Tom, and should you have any ideas or suggestions in regard to this work it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.
 Medical Research Center

RAC:ag