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A. C. Graves, J-DO

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T. L. Shipman, M. D., Health Division Leader

POLIO INOCULATION, OPERATION HARDTACK

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According to a TWX received in my office this morning, there is now a total of some 46 cases of polio on the island of Majuro. This represents an astonishingly large number of cases for a small community. Fortunately the cases seem to be relatively mild, and they do not seem to be showing respiratory involvement. Such a situation, of course, does not imply that this is an unusually virulent strain of the virus; the assumption on the other hand is that this is a population group which has had essentially no immunity or resistance to the disease.

There can be absolutely no question but that immunization with the Salk vaccine must be mandatory for all participating personnel (special consideration will be given in cases of individuals known to be allergic to the constituents of the vaccine).

The routine for polio immunization consists of two inoculations not less than two weeks apart. These are followed by a third inoculation six months or more later. Obviously all LASL personnel who are participating or even considering participation should report as promptly as possible to the H-2 dispensary to get their series started. There may be a few people whom time will not allow to get their second shot. Arrangements should be made with H & N for these people to receive their second shot after their arrival on Parry. The final shot of the series can probably be given here after they have returned, and this final shot should not be neglected as this seems to be the one which renders the immunity long lasting.

Dr. Whipple or I will be glad to answer any questions which may arise in connection with this problem.

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

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