[redacted]

radiological safety of their food and water for consumption. The people were reassured that their health was generally good and their food and water safe for consumption, and the importance of continued examinations and treatment in order to help insure their continued good health was stressed. These explanations appeared to alleviate their fears and the people cooperated extremely well with the medical team in carrying out the examinations.

[redacted]

Marshallese. A somewhat increased prevalence of miscarriages and stillbirths has been noted in the exposed group, but due to paucity of vital statistics on the Marshallese and the small number of people involved, no statistical analysis is possible.

[redacted]

Rongelap remains slightly radioactively contaminated but careful surveys showed the island to be safe for habitation by the summer of 1957 when the people were returned to Rongelap. Studies of the body burdens of radioactive materials in these people is an important part of the medical surveys. A 21 ton steel room with very sensitive radiation detecting equipment has been used in the past 2 annual surveys at Rongelap to determine the body burdens of radionuclides. In addition numerous urine samples have been analyzed for radioactivity. The results of these studies show that there has been an increase in body burdens, principally of Cesium^{137}, Zinc^{65} and Strontium^{90}, since their return to Rongelap. About the same levels of these isotopes have been noted in those exposed and unexposed.

[redacted]

the basis of better age data obtained during the past survey.

5. Blood platelet levels are within the normal range but somewhat below that for the unexposed population.

6. Only 12 cases show residual changes in the skin from beta burns. None show any evidence of cancerous change.

7. Possible late effects of radiation such as shortening of life span, premature aging, increased incidence of leukemia and malignancies, increased incidence of degenerative diseases, opacities of the lens of the eyes, and genetic changes have not been observed.

8. The original body burdens of internally absorbed fission products appears to be too low to have produced any acute or long-term effects.

9. The return of the people to the slightly contaminated island of Rongelap has caused some increase in body burdens of Cesium^{137}, Zinc^{65} and Strontium^{90}. However, the levels are far below the accepted maximum permissible dose and it is not believed any untoward effects will result.

In view of the limited knowledge of the late effects of radiation in human beings, it is considered essential that medical surveys of the Rongelap people continue to be carried out in order to detect and treat immediately any possible further effects of radiation that might develop. Though body burdens of radioactive isotopes are well below the accepted permissible dose levels and no further significant increase in these burdens is anticipated, a close check on these levels during future medical surveys is indicated.

SIGNED:

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