



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
 ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC., UPTON, L.I., N.Y. 11973

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: (516) 345- 3568

26 April 1973

James Liverman, Ph. D.
 Director
 Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research
 U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Liverman:

I have finished reading the extensive report of the Micronesian Congress on the events preceding and following the fallout accident in the Pacific on March 1, 1954. This report and the questionnaire that Senator Borja proposes is really loaded. Separately I am sending you the comments of Dr. Knud Knudsen who has been in residence in the Marshall Islands this year.

One of the suggestions of Senator Borja is to have a single report including the present status of the people from the Marshall Islands, the American Service Men and the Japanese who were exposed. Of course, this is a good suggestion and one which all of us has supported in the past. However, for reasons not at all clear to me, the Department of Defense failed to have followup studies on the American Servicemen who were exposed despite the fact that this was strongly recommended by me at the termination of the initial survey in 1954 and again in 1955 when my personal participation ceased.

When a report on the American Servicemen does not appear, I believe this will be logically interpreted by Senator Borja and the Micronesian Congress that the AEC and Department of Defense are trying to suppress knowledge.

I am bringing this to your attention because I think it is potentially a very serious problem that certainly will reflect unfavorably upon the Department of Defense and by inference, upon the Atomic Energy Commission.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eugene P. Cronkite'.

Eugene P. Cronkite, M. D.
 Chairman

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