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BIO-MED, DR. CONARD
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January 10, 1967

Dr. Robert A. Conard, M.D.
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Associated Universities, Inc.
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 1966 and please excuse this belated reply. The pressure of year-end doings has been very heavy (including my travelling). In addition, the necessary re-scheduling of Field Trips to accomodate the Peace Corps has made a shamble of our "schedules", and we are still trying to get everything back on track again.

Our transportation situation has not improved. If anything, it has worsened. (If that is possible!) The Ralik-Ratak is still awaiting a dry-dock schedule, and we had a rather serious engine breakdown about a month ago high-lighting the urgency of this dry-docking. The Militobi broke its anchor-winch, also about a month ago, and the repair has gotten snarled up in paper red-tape to a Comic-opera proportion!

We are hopeful that the anchor-chain winch will be repaired in a week or two, but the Militobi's "Schedule" is hopelessly out-of-kilter.

To complicate matters, we expect the second phase of the Peace Corps Volunteers arrivals to take place around the latter part of February, 1967. If the first phase is any criteria, we are going to have considerable pressure exerted upon us-again-to schedule the field vessels to expeditiously accomodate the Peace Corps.

This constant "directing" of vessels to accomodate various interest groups is making a mockery of our Field Trip Schedule - a mockery which is very inimical to the interest of the out-islanders, relaying upon field schedules with some degree of regularity.

I point these things out to you to show you how impossible it is, as of this date, to say that we can have a field vessel at Kwajalein on Thursday, February 23, geared into a "Regular Medical Field Trip" or one at Rongelap on Wednesday, March 15, 1967, making its "Regular" trip. The only way we can have a vessel ready to lift you and your party to and from Rongelap on yo r stated dates, are to schedule them

accordingly with a real possibility that charter fees may be involved.

My staff is presently working with MIECO, and KITCO and Peace Corps officials to try to finalize the "regular field trip schedule" for the first quarter at 1967 (i.e. January - March). They will, of course, give maximum consideration to the requirements of you and your team. We will advise you further, as soon as practicable.

We look forward to your return, as well as of the many old friends we note on your team listing, and assure you that you shall receive our maximum cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Dwight Heine
District Administrator
Marshalls District
Majuro, Marshall Islands
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cc: Acting Director Med. Serv., Saipan
District Director of PH, Marshalls
Asst. Commissioner for Community Services
Asst. Commissioner for Resources
Distad Rep. Ebeye
LNO Kwajalein
Administrative Officer, Marshalls