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Sat., Nov. 18, 1972 Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Fallout Poisoning Kills Pacific Boy

LOS ANGELES (UPD) — The body of a teen-age boy who died as a result of radiation poisoning from an American hydrogen bomb test 18 years ago was being shipped back to his South Pacific home today.

The parents of Lejoj Anjain, 19, and a representative of the Atomic Energy Commission stopped here en route to the Marshall Islands

from Bethesda, Md., where the boy died of leukemia Wednesday.

Anjain was among 200 Rongelap Island villagers, including his father, who were contaminated March 1, 1954, following the atmospheric H-bomb test on Bikini atoll 100 miles away.

The boy was a year old when he, his family and the other island inhabitants were ordered off their tiny atoll after freak winds swept in with "hot" nuclear particles.

The island remained radioactive for almost four years.

Anjain apparently was the only villager to suffer leukemia. Others, including his father, John, were stricken with thyroid cancer.

Above-ground nuclear testing at the government's Bikini and Eniwetok island sites was barred nine years later with the U.S.-Soviet test-ban treaty.

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