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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1228, ERDA #3
FOLDER BIO-MED Dr. Conard
OLTHAW 12/1966

HQA:MSR-2305

October 11, 1966

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Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Office of the High Commissioner
Saipan, Mariana Islands

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Norwood:

Your hospitality and the cooperation of your staff during the recent visit of Dr. Conard and Mr. Rasmussen is very much appreciated. They have reported that due to the assistance of your personnel at Saipan, Majuro, Kwajalein and Rongelap that their mission of examining patients and establishing procedures for support was successfully accomplished.

Under separate cover, we are mailing the film "Return to Bikini" as Mr. Rasmussen promised. Please return the film to this office as soon as you are finished with it. There is quite a demand for it in this area. You may want Dwight Heine to see the film. If so, he can return it from Majuro. We are proceeding to research the question you asked as to when Bikini can be returned to the people. We will also attempt to determine the status of the scrap vessels you discussed with Mr. Rasmussen.

We believe the recent visit was very beneficial in that important contacts were made to facilitate the annual medical surveys and the movement of patients. We still may have a transportation problem. We are fully aware that this is an acute problem throughout the Trust Territory and not unique to our program. There is particular concern over the movement of patients when necessary for treatment. As you are well aware, the conditions on Ebeye are not the best and it seems we are headed toward a situation where the patients will refuse to be moved for

OFFICE ▶	ADM <i>[Signature]</i>	ADM <i>[Signature]</i>	MGR
SURNAME ▶	NSRasmussen/jcg	T.H. Langenship	WAB <i>[Signature]</i>
DATE ▶	10/11/66	10/11/66	10/11/66

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treatment because of the necessity of staying at Ebeye for long periods awaiting transportation. We mention this problem because I feel our government has a great responsibility for the welfare of the exposed Rongelap people. I believe we should take all reasonable steps to see that these people have no legitimate basis for refusing to be moved in connection with prescribed treatments. As an example, the patient we just brought to Tripler Hospital for treatment, originally refused to come. She is the mother of ten children and had no idea when she would get back to her home island. She was finally persuaded to make the trip and is now back at Ebeye awaiting transportation. We have described this situation so that our requests for special transportation will not seem unreasonable to you and those of your staff responsible for handling such matters.

Very truly yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
WILLIAM A. BONNET

William A. Bonnet
Manager

cc: R. A. Conard, M.D. Brookhaven
Dir. Office of Territories, Dept.
of Interior, Wash., D.C.
Dir., Div. of Biology and Medicine
AEC, Wash., D.C.
District Administrator, Marshall Islands
Trust Territory Rep., Kwajalein
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