

July 9, 1976
Utiirik, Marshall Islands
Trust Territory of the Pacific

Mr. Roger Ray, A11/DAS
U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA)
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 11100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89111

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Ray:

This letter is from the chiefs and all of the people in Utiirik Atoll. It has now been twenty-two years since the radioactive fall-out from the bomb, which has disturbed the peace and welfare from 1954 until the present.

The doctors from ERDA have told us that there were 14 rads in Utiirik and 175 rads in Rongelap, therefore, we are very surprised, because in Utiirik we have ten cases of thyroid nodules, three of which were malignant. But in Rongelap they have thirty cases of thyroid nodules, and also three cases of malignancy. Perhaps you can tell us if there is some explanation for the same number of malignant thyroid cases in Rongelap and Utiirik, who received very different levels of radiation?

Additionally, we have many more things to ask, because at present we are not happy with the way things are:

1. Why is there not a control group in Utiirik?
 - a) The people of Utiirik are different from the people of Rongelap—they are a different gene pool and breeding population.
 - b) The people of Utiirik were exposed to different levels of radiation than the people of Rongelap—Utiirik had 14 rads, and Rongelap had 175 rads.
 - c) There were different return times for the Utiirik people and the Rongelap people from Kwajalein (following their evacuation) in 1954—the people of Utiirik returned to their atoll after three months, and the people of Rongelap returned to their atoll after three years.
 - d) Would it be correct to say that perhaps the Utiirik people received more than only 14 rads in light of their quick return time to Utiirik?
 - e) Would it be correct to say that we can expect many more cases of thyroid problems in the future?
2. How come the ERDA doctors told us that there was just a little bit of radiation in Utiirik and a lot in Rongelap? That is, why are there the same number of malignant thyroid glands in Utiirik as there are in Rongelap?
3. Why is it that the ERDA doctors do not examine the children of the exposed Utiirik group?
4. Why is it that the ERDA doctors give different treatment to the people of Utiirik than the people of Rongelap? They do not give full examinations to the people of Utiirik every year, as they do in Rongelap. Why not?
5. The people of Utiirik should be able to choose their own doctor:
 - a) The people of Utiirik do not like Dr. Knudsen because he does not examine all of the Utiirik people, and looks at the people of Utiirik as if they are merely animals in a scientific experiment, and further, he does not provide a "sick call" for the people.
 - b) The people of Utiirik do not like Dr. Conrad because he lies to the people, and has not helped the people to understand the problems.

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that they confront in regards to the radiation and its effects.

6. Some years ago, the ERDA doctors discovered that a number of the Utirik people had adult-onset diabetes, and said that 25% of the people had the disease.
 - a) Why haven't the ERDA doctors given medicine to the people who have the disease in Utirik (medicine: Diabinase)?
 - b) Dr. Konrad Kotrady had asked the Trust Territory Gov't. (in Majuro) for the medicine (Diabinase), and they refused to give him any for the people of Utirik, and therefore, the people with this disease have not been properly treated.
7. At present, the people of Utirik have much fear of the radiation that came from the bomb:
 - a) Therefore the people of Utirik feel the need to have someone come out and do a study of Utirik for possible lingering radiation.
 - b) The people of Utirik feel that their arrowroot has been damaged as a result of the radiation. At present the arrowroot stalks measure one foot, whereas before the radiation they measured five feet.

As you can see, the people of Utirik are very distressed and angry as a result of the radiation. The people feel that the ERDA Program is in need of vast changes.

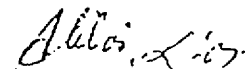
Thank you very much,



Joseph Peter - Magistrate



Atijo Alea - Scribe



Aplos Kios - Iroij (Chief)

cc: Robert A. Conard, H.D., ERDA
Rep. Charles Dominak, Congress of Micronesia
Rep. Ataji Palos, Congress of Micronesia
Sen. Olympia Borja, Congress of Micronesia
Dist. Ad. Oscar DeBum, Marshalla
Fred Zeder, Dept. of Interior (US)
Sec. Trusteeship Council, United Nations

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