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Department of Energy
Pacific Area Support Office
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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NU
BOX No. 1236
FOLDER BNL FOLDER #3
FY 1979
MEDICAL PROGRAM

Addressees

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

On May 10, 1979, Don Brush, Lon Kilmer and I met with Dr. Hugh Pratt, BNL to discuss the most likely program responsibilities that the U.S. would be either continuing or adding in the future, and Dr. Pratt's views on how best they could be met logistically.

We discussed H.R. 3756 which passed the House of Representatives and is likely to be passed soon by the Senate, and agreed that probably the U.S. Government would be providing a large measure of primary health care for the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik in addition to monitoring the people and environment for radiation related problems.

Dr. Pratt said that Walter Weyzen could, if necessary, commit 5-year funding (about \$3 Million) to contractual arrangement for logistic support. (sic)

The population covered approximates:

Rongelap-Utirik (control and exposed) and Wotje	500
Bikini (800 with land right but presumably 200-300 scattered)	600
Enewetak	500
	<u>1,600</u>

Dr. Pratt suggests that it is likely that DOE will get a mandate to administer the program and that BNL will be primary contractor because of 25 years' experience, rapport with people, etc. He envisions that BNL would handle irradiated people directly and some other entity under a subcontract to BNL (like USC) would perform primary health care at Bikini and Enewetak and also integrate with BNL on Rongelap-Utirik mission.

Trips suggested for BNL:	January	Full Thyroid
	June	Pediatrics
	Fall	Dental-diabetes and ancillary studies

CONCURRENCES
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The above would all in varying degrees be radiation related but would also provide a health education program and deliver general health care with subcontractor personnel. Additionally, Dr. Pratt would like to see the health physics program (Greenhouse) be integrated into above trips to gel the BNL effort and help avoid confusion.

Trips suggested by Primary Health Subcontractor:

- 1 screening visit to Bikini and Enewetak
- 1 general health care visit

In addition, BNL would select candidates from the atolls to undergo quality medex training with special attention to identification of problems due to radiation.

PROPOSED MODE OF OPERATIONS AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

There would be about 5-6 trips per year (3 Rongelap-Utirik and 2 Enewetak-Bikini-Kili). The operations would be supported without need for a vessel by either:

- A. Two each SH-3 helicopters based on Kwajalein, or
- B. A STOL aircraft.

This could either be government-owned or leased but better still it could be a private service which would serve the Marshalls and be partially subsidized by the U.S. Government (DOE) and used on an advanced plan basis to serve the atolls. This could and should be done in partnership with the Marshalls Government. In concert with them and, of course, the affected atolls, STOL strips could be constructed. This not only would serve U.S. Government interests by providing timely service to the people, and saving scientific manhours but would be expected to be well accepted by the Marshallese for emergency medical purposes as well as to facilitate their own travel and transport of mail, equipment, etc. Air strips now exist on Enyu and Bikini.

It was suggested that the environmental programs could be served by this method also but would necessarily have to preposition equipment. WBC units could be left in place at Kili, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik and it would be necessary only to bring in the electronics for each trip.

TIME FRAME

Taking into account the U.S. system and funding cycles it appears that it would be at least 18 months (late 1980) for funding to

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become a reality and design and coordination activities to be completed. Construction could start in early 1981.

SUPPORT THROUGH 1980

Dr. Pratt agreed that the Liktanur II was the only reasonable alternative at least through FY 1980 and probably well into FY 1981. It was jointly agreed that Holmes & Narver prepare for and initiate negotiations with U.S. Oceanography to extend the contract for an additional year.

FALL TRIP

BNL has scheduled a dental-diabetes-parasitology, health education trip, for Ebeye on September 16, and sailing for Rongelap September 21.

Original Signed By

H. U. BROWN

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OP-369

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Addressees

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