

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20545

October 26, 1965

Mr. John T. Conway
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Conway:

Since our note to you on August 5, 1965, a copy of which is enclosed, Dr. Robert Conard of the Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Dr. J. E. Rall, a consultant thyroid specialist of the National Institutes of Health, visited the Marshall Islands to check on possible further development of thyroid abnormalities in the Rongelapese accidentally exposed to fallout on March 1, 1954.

During the examination in August 1965, nodules were found in three additional adolescents and in two adults. Further the contours of the thyroids of two more adolescents, two young adults, and one man approaching middle age were sufficiently different from normal to cause Drs. Conard and Rall to describe them as questionable. To summarize, there are now eleven of eighty-two Marshallese with definite abnormalities of the thyroid tissues; five more are considered questionably abnormal.

The non-exposed control population continues to be free of nodular thyroid disease.

Dr. Conard and his group will return to Rongelap in February 1966. Meanwhile, therapy with synthetic thyroid hormone has been instituted in an effort to control further nodule formation. The local practitioner is maintaining surveillance of the thyroids of this exposed group.

Sincerely yours,

JCAE

/s/ S. G. English

S. G. English
Assistant General Manager
for Research and Development

Enclosure:

Ltr, English to Conway
dtd 8/5/65

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