



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
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401398

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

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January 8, 1976

Senator Olympio T. Borja  
Chairman, Special Joint Committee  
Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls  
Congress of Micronesia  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Senator Borja:

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 30, 1975. I am sorry you did not receive the copies of our Twenty Year Report which I sent both to you and Ataji some time ago - with an autographed statement expressing my appreciation for your support. I will forward to you by separate mail four more copies of the report.

Regarding PL 5-52 there has been considerable misunderstanding among the people about the bill. I heard recently, however, that Dr. Riklon was in Ebeye to help straighten matters out. Implementation of this law is the Trust Territory's responsibility and I hope it can be made to function smoothly. We are trying to complete the identification card system, though already people are losing them.

I trust you got a copy of my recent letter to the Interior, <sup>Dr. T.</sup> concerning the latest Utirik thyroid cases. I understand that they are altering the Utirik compensation taking this into consideration.

I have just completed our itinerary for the March-April survey and enclose a copy. We will have five doctors and three technicians and I have asked the Trust Territory to furnish a practitioner or medex and three technicians. I have also suggested that one of their people accompany us to explain and answer questions about PL 5-52 and the Compensation Bill. Though we will be pretty crowded on the LCU we would be happy to have you or Ataji go along.

Our survey will concentrate on thyroid examinations as well as other possible late effects of radiation and we expect to continue our investigation of diabetes - one of the big medical problems in the Marshallese and also assist in the V.D. and immunization programs if desired. We also expect to take four thyroid cancer cases to Tripler Hospital in Honolulu at the end of the survey for thorough check-ups.

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INFORMATION OPERATOR (516) 345-2123

Senator O. T. Borja

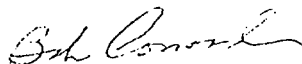
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I certainly hope the Bikini situation is settled to the best interests of the people. We have tried to keep careful check on the radiological status of the people living on the Island and, using the best techniques available, have not detected any radiation exposures which were cause for concern. In the near future we expect to do repeat whole-body radiation measurements on the group at the time of the special medical examinations to be conducted by the Trust Territory.

I appreciate your offer of help and we will call on you if the need arises.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.

RAC:im  
Enc.

*Copy - Ataji Baloa -*