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2-3 THE PLAIN DEALER, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1974

3 Marshall Islanders arrive here for radiation growth removal

Two women and a man from Rongelap, one of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, arrived here yesterday for treatment of a condition caused by exposure to hydrogen bomb fallout.

They are and ... though he was in the ... 26 years ago when the United States exploded the test bomb 125 miles away from the Marshalls.

The three must undergo surgery for removal from thyroid glands nodules caused by radioactive fallout.

They came to Cleveland for the surgery because Dr. Brian DeBergis, associate director of surgery at Metropolitan General, is one of the best surgeons in the country. They are not the first to come. Two dozen of their relatives and

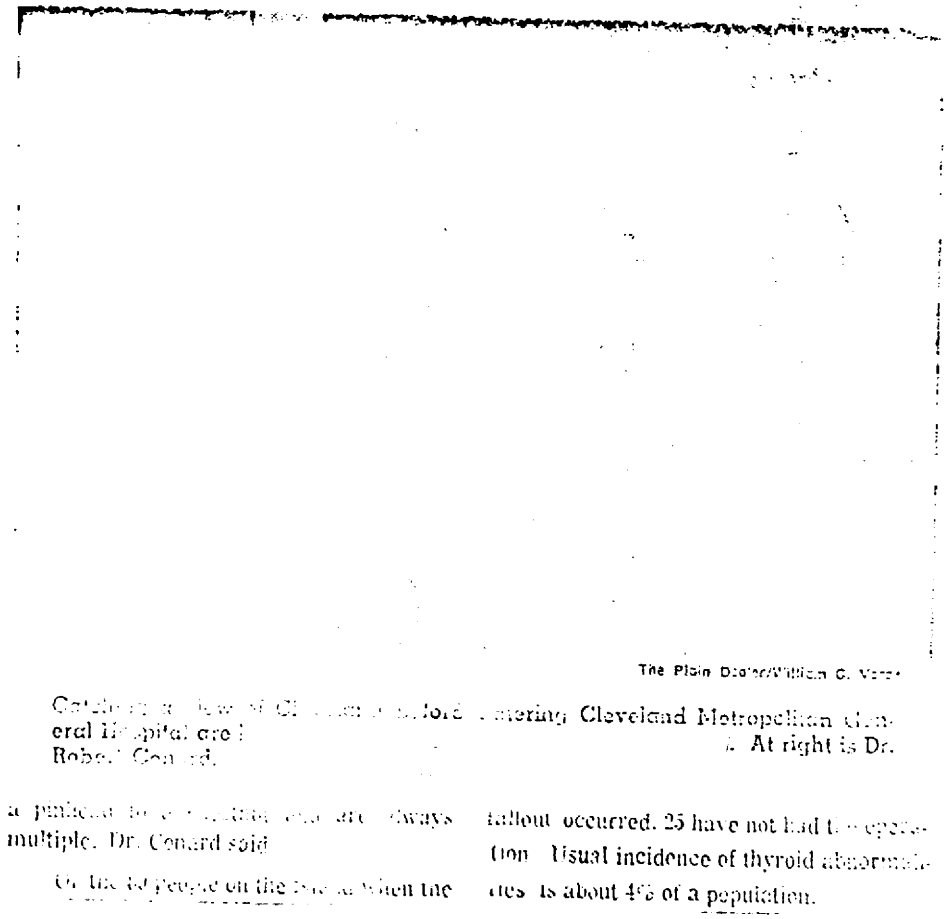
neighbors have preceded them.

The United States is paying for the trip. Despite the circumstances, the visit is quite an experience for the victims. One woman who came last year was so fascinated by American women's undergarments, she took them home.

Dr. Robert Conard, traveling companion and physician for the Marshall Island residents, said the three making the trip this time get their first view of television. He noted that a highlight of their hospital stay is the television in each room.

Dr. Conard said that in the decades examining the residents of Rongelap. They have yearly physicals.

The two women will undergo the surgery today. The man will have the operation tomorrow. Each operation for the surgery is 90 minutes. The operations range in time from



The Plain Dealer/William C. Vetter

Catching a view of Cleveland from the window of Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital are Robert Conard. At right is Dr.

a patient to ... always ... fallout occurred. 25 have not had ... operation. Usual incidence of thyroid abnormalities is about 4% of a population.

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