

WFO 2/6/73

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PASO Files

Hills

Van My

Jerry

Macdonald

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REPOSITORY	DOE/PASO
COLLECTION	DOE/NV
BOX No.	1228 "ERDA #3"
FOLDER	BIO-MED DR. CONNARD 01 Thru 12/1973

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On November 15, a 19-year old Micronesian, died of leukemia induced by fallout from a March 1, 1954 H-bomb blast on Bikini atoll. Over 200 Marshall Islanders were contaminated by heavy doses of fallout, but the people of Rongelap, where lived, were most severely affected.

In late September 1972 it was found that was suffering from acute myelogenous leukemia. He was treated at the U.S. Government's National Institutes of Health. Like just about everybody his age on Rongelap, he had previously had surgery to remove a thyroid tumor also caused by the Bomb.

body was recently returned to Micronesia, accompanied by his parents and an Atomic Energy Commission representative. Unfortunately, the AEC man neglected to

see that body was put on the proper flight and as a result the casket was left behind in Honolulu. To make matters worse, the Navy had planned to provide an amphibious plane for the last leg of the journey but the pilot damaged the plane while on a joy-ride to another island.

The Government has tried to keep death quiet. An ex-Peace Corps volunteer who knew well has received anonymous phone calls threatening legal action if anyone should see photos taken of Leko in the hospital. To the AEC's embarrassment, Stewart Alsop was coincidentally assigned to share a room with at NIH and wrote a moving story about him in Newsweek. But the AEC has not yet officially notified leaders of the Congress of Micronesia of his death, nor has the government news service in Micronesia told the Micronesian people themselves about and the Bomb.

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