

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

401159

Upton, New York 11973

(516) 345-7538
FTS 666-7538

Medical Department

December 9, 1980


Bruce Wachholz, Ph.D.
Office of Health & Environmental
Research (EV-30)
Office of Environment
U. S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Bruce:

Enclosed are copies of some early correspondence that we had with the AEC and copies of early correspondence between Conard, National Academy of Sciences, and distinguished physicians in the United States in planning continuing studies of the Marshallese, which I believe document the concern and thoroughness with which these studies were initiated.

After reading my April 19, 1956 letter to Dr. Dunham, Director, DBM-AEC, my memory is refreshed. As you recall, I was the Officer in Charge of the initial study and care of the Marshallese and American servicemen exposed to radiation while I was still in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy. Study and medical care were performed by the Medical Department, U. S. Navy for the Atomic Energy Commission. My resignation from the U. S. Navy was effective October 1, 1954 and I came to Brookhaven. I have no record of what was done with the originals when I left the Naval Medical Research Institute, but presumably they were at that time turned over to the Atomic Energy Commission, Division of Biology and Medicine, since my 19 April 1956 letter states that we felt the records should be relocated to Brookhaven in order to facilitate the work. On October 6, 1959, further original clinical forms of medical examination of the Marshallese people were forwarded to Dr. Dunham.

It is clear now that we can document definitely that the records were turned over to DBM-AEC, and we feel strongly that a major effort should be made to locate these records. I would be pleased to have Mr. William Scott come to Washington and assist you in looking over records in the AEC files, along with Dr. Conard, if this is deemed desirable.

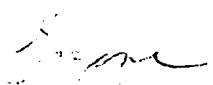

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Certainly in view of the impending litigation, I think it is highly desirable that we make a conscientious and in-depth search for the original records.

The other material that is sent to you I think will be of value to you, at least showing the efforts that were made early in the program to have a first-class study and care program within the mandates made to Brookhaven and the funds made available by the Atomic Energy Commission and its successors.

Kindly let me know your desires.

Sincerely yours,


Eugene P. Cronkite, M.D.

EPC:mb

Encs.

cc: W. Burr
C. Edington
✓ J. Thiessen
V. Bond
D. Borg

} w/o enclosures