

June 1, 1965

403538

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF MEDICAL FINDINGS IN
THE 1965 SURVEY OF THE RONGELAP PEOPLE (11 YEARS)
AFTER EXPOSURE TO FALLOUT RADIATION)

The eleventh annual medical survey of the 76 exposed people and 200 unexposed people of Rongelap Island was completed in March of 1965. The health of both the exposed and unexposed people on the Island is generally good, and the nutrition in both groups is satisfactory. Nodules of the thyroid gland were detected in three additional exposed people: two cases in boys 12 and 17 years of age and the other in an adult woman age 41. These nodules appear grossly similar to the nodules found in three teenage girls in 1964. Following surgical treatment, these latter nodules were found not to be malignant. The three new cases are being brought to Brookhaven National Laboratory for further examination and treatment in June, 1965.

No malignancies have been detected in the exposed group which could be related to radiation exposure. No cases of leukemia have been detected. A few people show slight scars, and some have developed moles in the sites of their previous "beta burns", but with no signs of skin cancer.

Mortality and birth rates have been about the same in the exposed as compared to the unexposed group. No increase in incidence of miscarriages and stillbirths in the exposed women has been noted since 1958. Evaluation of growth and development data for children has not been completed, so that no additional statement can be made at this time in regard to the previously noted slight retardation of growth in boys exposed at less than five years of age.

DOE ARCHIVES

Preliminary analysis indicates that the slight depression of blood elements previously noted has returned to normal.

The people appear to be quite well adjusted to their life on their home island to which they were returned in 1957, and exhibit no untoward psychological reactions to their experience.



Robert A. Conard, M.D.
Head, Marshall Islands Medical Survey
Medical Research Center
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, L.I., New York 11973

DOE ARCHIVES

bb