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 BOX No. 1228, "ERDA # 3"
 FOLDER BIO-MED, DR. CONARD
07 thru 12/1969

September 17, 1969

William K. Streenan

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUBSISTENCE/PER DIEM FOR MARSHALLESE MEDICAL PATIENTS

I may not see you before you take off for Kwajalein and therefore I want to bring you up to date on the above subject. Also I enclose the background information which you gave me on September 9 shortly before you left on your vacation.

When I was in Las Vegas on September 11 I had a long telephone conversation with Dr. Conard who was at Brookhaven. He was in complete agreement with my thought that the Government should pay for the transportation and some per diem for these medical patients when they were required to leave their permanent (or semi-permanent) domiciles to receive medical treatment as recommended by Dr. Conard. As a matter of fact Bob thought such provisions had been made in the past and were continuing to be made. I told him that this was not so. Conard also felt this expense should be borne by the AEC.

As I see it, in the example of the Trust Territory would provide transportation for her from her home in Rongelap to Ebeye; the AEC would pay some per diem (amount yet to be determined) for her stay in Ebeye while she is awaiting transportation to Kwajalein and thence to Hono and New York; AEC would continue to pay some per diem until her return to her home base of Rongelap; probably her per diem rate would be different while she is on the boat from Rongelap to Ebeye; while she is in Ebeye; while she is in travel status to New York and while she is in New York. Conard seems to think the individual should get two allowances - one for their lodging and another for subsistence, i.e., food, incidentals, etc. I have no strong feeling on this but I am inclined to think it would be much simpler, and probably just as equitable, to pay the individual a flat daily rate particularly for the time they are on Ebeye.

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I told Conard I was thinking in terms of like \$2 or \$3 a day while the individual is at Ebeye. In accordance with the discussion I had with you before you left Honolulu I also told Conard that we thought the total additional cost to his program would be on the order of \$1,000 or \$2,000 a year. He was agreeable to this kind of money coming out of his program.

As I read the enclosed file, I note the letter from Mrs. Farrington to Ed Johnston which states in the second paragraph, "It is our understanding that although Micronesian personnel have participated in the survey, no direct costs have been incurred by the Trust Territory Government." I questioned Bob Conard regarding this statement and he said it was also his understanding that the TT Government was to bear no direct costs for these patients and therefore it was up to the AEC to do so.

You should immediately proceed to Kwajalein and work out a Memorandum of Understanding with the appropriate Trust Territory representative. This would be an understanding between the AEC and the TT. I will sign for the AEC. The Memorandum of Understanding should include several whereass's to explain why the agreement is necessary. It should also more clearly spell out such items as:

- a. What the Trust Territory will pay for - such as transportation from Rongelap to Ebeye and return to Rongelap.
- b. Exactly who will be eligible for transportation and per diem costs. The wording here will have to be very specific so there is no misunderstanding that we will not pay per diem for those individuals who live on Ebeye in a semi-permanent situation.
- c. The per diem rate, or rates, will have to be clearly spelled out. Perhaps the TT already has an established rate which might apply for individuals temporarily held over in Ebeye. If the TT has some established rates they would be good guidelines for us to use.
- d. There should be a maximum number of days shown in the agreement which the AEC will pay for on any one trip, or a maximum amount of money for any one trip. However, this limitation may be increased on an individual basis with the specific approval of the AEC if it is necessary to do so to cover some extraordinary situation.
- e. Provision will have to be made whereby AEC turns the money over to the Trust Territory and the Trust Territory makes payments to the individuals. As a follow-on, the TT would periodically account to us for the expenditures they have made from our funds.

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There are probably other conditions to be included in the Memorandum of Understanding which you will have to negotiate with the TT and which I have not thought of at this time.

In the case of the two present patients and in view of the letter from Coard, I think you should take \$200 or \$300 cash money to Kwajalein with you so that when you reach agreement with the Trust Territory representative you can leave enough money with him to pay for the two Marshallese patients involved in the current trip.

If you need further guidance do not hesitate to call me at home over the weekend.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
WILLIAM A. BONNET

William A. Bonnet
Manager

HO-1361

Enclosure
As Indicated

cc: Dr. R.A. Coard w/out encl.

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