

UNITED STATES  
 ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

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403004

April 14, 1975

Dr. Nathaniel F. Barr  
 U. S. Energy Research and  
 Development Administration  
 Washington, D. C. 20545

**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

Dear Nat -

Recalling your remarks of last week about studies you would hope to initiate with the returning Enewetak and Bikini populations, I think you should be aware of some of the objections which have some currency in the Marshalls. See enclosures.

is a gentle man who has been our friend and a friend of Conard's over the years. As a young man (37, I believe) he was Mayor, or Magistrate of Rongelap at the time of the Bravo incident, March 1954. His son, was an infant at the time. died in November 1972 at Bethesda. I met at that time and have visited with him since. At funeral he expressed sincere appreciation for Bob Conard's work and for the care his son had received. There was no bitterness evident and that occasion was not taken as an opportunity to embarrass us or open old wounds.

Recently,,however has become associated with the Conference for a Nuclear Free Pacific and perhaps has had some help in developing into more of an activist than he has been heretofore. Noting especially the third item in his petition, I think that we must realistically appraise the cost in credibility and in acceptance of our other Marshall Islands activities of any research effort which can be construed as "using people". I'll continue to keep an open mind, but I'll also continue to share with you what I perceive to be the parameters and constraints of our situation in the Marshalls.

Sincerely,

Roger Ray  
 Assistant Manager  
 For Operations

Enclosures: As indicated

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# Pacific Nuclear Ban Sought

By Buck Donham  
Star-Bulletin Writer

Several delegates to the Conference for a Nuclear-Free Pacific stopped here yesterday en route back from a meeting they hope will result in the banning of all nuclear weapons from the South Pacific.

Roger Gale, Quaker International Affairs representative from Tokyo, said 90 people from 22 nations attended the six-day conference, which ended Saturday, in Suva, Fiji.

He said the conferees adopted in principle a draft treaty that would prohibit any nuclear weapon in the South Pacific area bounded by the Indian Ocean, Antarctica, Latin America and the Trust Territories.

THE TREATY which will go to the United Nations General Assembly, would be similar to those already in effect for Antarctica and Latin America, Gale said.

Similar treaties are being prepared for the Indian Ocean and for Malaysia, Indonesia and New Guinea, he said.

James Douglass, a peace activist and former

religion professor at the University of Hawaii, said the South Pacific is especially important because the United States plans to operate its new Trident submarines, carrying missiles with multiple nuclear warheads, in the South as well as North Pacific.

The treaty, if passed by the UN, would put U.S. military intentions in direct conflict with interna-

tional law, Douglass said.

Among the delegates who arrived in Honolulu yesterday were two who have had first-hand experience with the terrors of nuclear weapons.

They were

professor emeritus of ethics at Hiroshima University and a victim of the Hiroshima bombing; and mayor of Rongelap Atoll, whose inhabitants were exposed

to the fallout from U.S. H-bomb tests at Bikini Atoll.

Professor said he lost the vision of his right eye, which was "roasted" by the atomic explosion in Hiroshima.

whose nephew died of leukemia, said his people suffer not only from radiation-induced illness from the nuclear blast at Bikini, but also from inadequate medical attention.

After 20 Years

# Fallout Effects Worry Islanders

"From generation to generation we went without worrying about anything," said the mayor of tiny Rongelap Island in Micronesia.

Then in 1954 the United States set off H-bomb Bravo on Bikini, and the radioactive fallout drifted and fell like snow on Rongelap and its 86 residents.

Since then, said Mayor "We worry all the time. We are worried about our lives and we don't know what is happening."

He said his people have appealed time and again to the United States for adequate medical care. American doctors visit the island and examine the people twice a year now rather than once.

"THEY TELL us to eat coconut crab only three times a week," he said, but do not explain why it cannot be eaten every day.

"We don't eat it at all now. We are afraid," he said.

"They say don't worry. Don't question the doctor," he said, "and they give the people pills. We don't know what for or why."

He said 19 persons have died in Mainland hospitals of leukemia, "but we don't know why they die on Rongelap."

Many of the people of his island have had surgery for thyroid tumors, he said, including all those that were children

and all those still in the womb at the time of the fallout.

HE SAID the United States deported a Japanese medical team that had been invited by the people to conduct physical examinations.

He would like to send four or five of his people to Japanese doctors in Hiroshima to be examined.

In a petition to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the United Nations Trusteeship Council, he is asking that:

—Qualified doctors be based on Rongelap to provide daily medical service.

—Radiation experts and medical doctors, preferably including some from Hiroshima, survey Rongelap and issue individual diagnoses.

—The Atomic Commission no longer be permitted to use the people of Rongelap and adjacent Utirik as "guinea pigs" for their bomb-related research.

—ONLY 35 of those exposed to the radiation sur-



vive today, he said.

He said the population of Rongelap is now 200, and that they want to stay with the current administration of the Trust Territory.

He said money on Rongelap is no problem. "In three months we can make 20 to 25 tons of copra. From the sale of copra, the people buy imported rice, flour, sugar and kerosene." They eat coconut, breadfruit, pandanus, fish and shellfish, he said.

He said he has 9 children, and earns about \$1,000 a year, which is enough to support his wife and family.

For 27 years he worked on Kwajalein as a carpenter, and returned to his native island a little over a year ago.

"Don't talk to me about money," he said.

"Money is nothing. My life is important.

"The life of my people is important."