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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 8, 1960


Dr. Lauren Donaldson  
Director  
Laboratory of Radiation Biology  
University of Washington  
Seattle 5, Washington

Dear Lauren:

Enclosed is a report of the 7th Medical Survey of the Marshall Islanders for your information and transmittal to whom it may concern in your group.

Looking forward to seeing you again at Fern Lake.

Sincerely yours,

  
John N. Wolfe, Chief  
Environmental Sciences Branch  
Division of Biology & Medicine

Enclosure:  
As stated above

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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
Associated Universities, Inc.

Upton, L.I., N.Y.

Dr. Charles L. Duhamel, Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Chuck:

I would like to briefly summarize for you some of the highlights of the recent survey. Everything really went very smoothly and I was quite pleased at the fine spirit of cooperation shown by the Trust Territory officials.

Bill Scott (medical technician from Brookhaven) and I arrived at Kwajalein March 9th. Dr. Ezra Riklon, the practitioner at Beye, had rounded up about ten Rongelap people not residing there for examination. Drs. Fennel and Shippey, in charge of the Kwajalein Hospital, were most cooperative and allowed us to use their facilities for the examinations. They were also kind enough to loan us a few boxes of dental X-ray film and a few dental X-ray plates. The dental X-ray plates were probably somewhat old but they were still usable. The dental X-ray plates were probably somewhat old but they were still usable. The dental X-ray plates were probably somewhat old but they were still usable.

The Navy flew us to Majuro on the 15th. Dr. John Isaac, the medical practitioner who has taken Dr. Ricking's place at Majuro, had rounded up several Rongelap people to be examined as well as a few children for height and weight measurements as part of the growth and development control group. These examinations were completed the following day.

Mr. Maynard Neas, Dr. H. B. Macdonald and I carried out final arrangements for the survey at Rongelap. The survey team consisted of the following people in addition to Dr. Macdonald, Bill Scott and myself: Dr. Ezra Riklon, Dr. Isaac Isaac and two technicians, Kloss and Sabio, and in addition, Dr. Jaffe and one of his dental technicians went along to carry out dental examinations. Mr. Neas also accompanied the group. He went along apparently to look into the agricultural situation on Rongelap. We sailed on the Rogue, the Trust Territory cargo ship, on Wednesday morning the 16th, arriving at Kwajalein one day later where we picked up Dr. Ezra and our three medical boxes which contained mainly the electronic Coulter counter and laboratory equipment. We did not sail for Rongelap until the afternoon of the 18th since, in view of Captain Robert's unfamiliarity with Rongelap lagoon, he wished to arrive at a time when the sun would be to his back as he entered the lagoon in order to steer through the coral heads. When we dropped anchor in the lagoon off Rongelap village on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Neil Morris, the agriculturalist who had been living on the island for the past year, and the new magistrate (Neas) came aboard. They indicated that the Rongelap people would like to have a meeting and ask certain questions before commencing with the examinations.

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Therefore, Mr. Neas, Dr. Macdonald and I met with the people for an hour or so that afternoon. Many of the same types of questions came up that have come up in the past regarding their present health status, etc. They were particularly curious as to why the AEC medical team had joined forces with the Trust Territory medical group and wanted to know if this was an indication that they were well and required no further study. It was explained to them that since the Trust Territory doctors were their usual doctors, it was thought better to combine forces for the annual examinations and this did not mean that further examinations were unnecessary. The subjects of the examination were:

(1) Physical examination  
(2) Hematological examination  
(3) Urinalysis  
(4) Blood chemistry  
(5) X-ray examination of chest  
(6) X-ray examination of skull  
(7) X-ray examination of spine  
(8) X-ray examination of pelvis  
(9) X-ray examination of hands  
(10) X-ray examination of feet  
(11) X-ray examination of joints  
(12) X-ray examination of teeth  
(13) X-ray examination of sinuses  
(14) X-ray examination of vertebrae  
(15) X-ray examination of ribs  
(16) X-ray examination of clavicles  
(17) X-ray examination of scapulae  
(18) X-ray examination of humeri  
(19) X-ray examination of radii  
(20) X-ray examination of ulnae  
(21) X-ray examination of femora  
(22) X-ray examination of tibiae  
(23) X-ray examination of fibulae  
(24) X-ray examination of patellae  
(25) X-ray examination of metacarpals  
(26) X-ray examination of metatarsals  
(27) X-ray examination of phalanges  
(28) X-ray examination of sesamoids  
(29) X-ray examination of distal radius  
(30) X-ray examination of distal ulna  
(31) X-ray examination of distal femur  
(32) X-ray examination of distal tibia  
(33) X-ray examination of distal fibula  
(34) X-ray examination of distal humerus  
(35) X-ray examination of distal radius  
(36) X-ray examination of distal ulna  
(37) X-ray examination of distal femur  
(38) X-ray examination of distal tibia  
(39) X-ray examination of distal fibula  
(40) X-ray examination of distal humerus  
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(95) X-ray examination of distal radius  
(96) X-ray examination of distal ulna  
(97) X-ray examination of distal femur  
(98) X-ray examination of distal tibia  
(99) X-ray examination of distal fibula  
(100) X-ray examination of distal humerus

The rest of that afternoon was spent in setting up the laboratory and organizing the school building for the physical examinations. The next day being Sunday, the examinations were not started until Monday. On Monday morning the people flocked in in greater numbers than we could handle and their attitude was entirely friendly and cooperative. There were only one or two at most who would not cooperate. We carried out the hematological examinations which included CBC done on the electronic Coulter counter, and smears were taken and stained for differentials, basophil counts and alkaline phosphatase determinations. A brief history was taken by Dr. Eira and Mrs. Macdonald. Neas and myself carried out brief physical examinations on all the exposed people. A limited number of urines were collected for radiochemical analysis. There were no cases of cancer, leukemia or any other significant findings on examination of the exposed people, nor were there any elevated white counts which were significant.

It appeared to me that the attitude of the people was, if anything, better this year. There seemed to be some vague knowledge on the part of the people of a possible suit against our government and this was mentioned in the meeting referred to. However, they did not seem to have any specific facts in this regard and indeed appeared to be very ill informed about any details of the suit.

Mr. Neas met with the people on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The people were taken to the airport on Friday morning and a Hawaiian Airlines plane (which was chartered) left for Hawaii the following night.

In conclusion it appeared to me that the survey as carried out with the

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of everyone concerned, is a happy solution to the problem. We are investigating the possibility of taking the steel room along next year in the cargo hold of the Roqua. I hope this will work out.

I hope this brief resume will give you some of the highlights of the survey.  
Warmest regards,

Sincerely,