

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, 96950

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE
CONCERNING RONGELAP &
UTIRIK ATOLLS
(Public Law 4C-33)

Senator Olympio T. Borja, Chairman
Representative Timothy Oikerili
Representative Hans Wiliander

September 21, 1972

Memorandum of Understanding

To : Medical Consultant to Special Joint Committee Concerning
Rongelap and Utirik Atolls, Congress of Micronesia

From : Vice Chairman, Special Joint Committee

Subject: Submission of Report

As per the Special Joint Committee's Interim Report of May 16, 1972, the Committee would like to request that you submit a report to it discussing the following areas of concern:

1. Method of examination of people of Rongelap and Utirik used by members of Brookhaven National Laboratory medical team including:
 - a. you (sic) indication as to whether you feel examination on a once-a-year basis is justifiable in an island situation; and
 - b. whether you feel the present examination methods are adequate to protect the health of those examined, including whether you feel certain tests should be added, or if certain tests being now conducted are not necessary; and
 - c. your discussion on the doctor-patient relationship between the team and the people being examined and also any observable problems in communication evident to you; and
 - d. any other comment you care to make in this area.
2. Relative to the area of treatment, the Committee requests that you:
 - a. comment based upon your observations of this particular

survey, whether you feel that present treatment (surgery, medicine, etc.) is adequate, could be improved, or is inadequate and your reasons for such opinion; and

b. from your knowledge, experience and review of pertinent literature, discuss the adequacy or inadequacy of past medical treatment.

Additionally, the Committee would like to request comments on:

1. The advisability of returning the Rongelapese and Utirikese to their islands before testing in that area had ceased and their consequent exposure to higher-than-normal levels of residual background radiation; and

2. Any other comments or suggestions relating to professional medical aspects of the team's work, either of a general or specific nature, or any information comparing the medical examination and treatment of these groups with those you may be familiar with; and

3. Your professional opinion based on Brookhaven-AEC reports as to the validity of the original amounts of radiation exposure, and residual amounts both whole-body and internal.

The Committee asks that you prepare your report separately, upon return to your present place of work and that it be written without soliciting the opinions of the other consultants to the Committee or doctors connected with the AEC or Brookhaven other than for informational purposes and that this report be submitted to the Committee no later than 50 days after your departure from the Marshall Islands District.

It is agreed that all reports, information and correspondence between the Special Joint Committee and its consultants will be treated confidentially as in a normal medico-legal, doctor-client relationship: provided, however, that the Special Joint Committee may, upon its discretion, make public, any and all information received from said consultants without naming them unless they so agree and that such publication will release the consultant from any restriction on using said information for his personal use as he sees fit. It is furthermore, provided that those consultants who are required by their supervisors or superiors to do so will make available copies of their reports with the understanding that the information contained therein is confidential in nature. The reports, when completed, should be sent to Chairman Olympio T. Borja, c/o Congress of Micronesia, Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950. Any expenses connected with the work of the consultants will be reimbursed or defrayed by funds of the Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls or by the Trust Territory Government.

Memo

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Concurrence by consultants to
Special Joint Committee:

/s/
Hans Wiliander, Vice Chairman
Special Joint Committee Concerning
Rongelap and Utirik Atolls
Congress of Micronesia

/s/
Dr. William S. Cole

/s/
Dr. Haruo Ezaki

/s/
Dr. Toshiyuki Kumatori

/s/
Dr. E. E. Pochin