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January 6, 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SARBORG  
COMMISSIONER BUSTINE  
COMMISSIONER PALMISTO  
COMMISSIONER BAKER  
COMMISSIONER TATE

THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER

*John V. Vinagre*

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THREE MARSHALLESE GIRLS OPERATED ON FOR REMOVAL OF THYROID NODULES (SEE ATTACHED COPY OF PREVIOUS MEMO, THIS SUBJECT).

Dr. Robert A. Conrad, Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, who has responsibility for conducting the clinical surveys, reports: "Sections of the nodules have been examined by a number of pathologists including Drs. S. Harran, G. S. Klink, R. A. Johnson and S. Lindsay. The consensus is that the nodules are benign, though with certain bizarre areas, and resemble iodine deficiency adenomas."

Dr. Lindsay noted that the nodules in the Rongelap cases are similar to ones he has seen in children following <sup>131</sup>I therapy. This Division has a file of Dr. Lindsay's histological reports and a review paper by Lindsay and Chalkoff, Cancer Research, 24:1979, 1964.

The radiation dosages which these children's thyroids may have received are being re-evaluated by Dr. John Gofman's group, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory.

It should be added that nodules in the thyroid glands of young people frequently become malignant in the course of time. Therefore, while those which were removed promptly after discovery were not malignant, there is a chance that in time they might have assumed neoplastic characteristics. Dr. Conrad's next clinical survey will take place in February 1965.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

*C. L. Dunham*  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

C. L. Dunham, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

Attachment:  
Copy of memo dated 10/2/64  
from C. L. Dunham to Chairman SARBORG

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