



Congress of Micronesia

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NO. 1000000

July 30, 1976

CHAS DISTRICT

John T. Balos

W. A. Tolson

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CHAS REPRESENTATIVES

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Dr. Robert A. Conard
Medical Department
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, New York 11973

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Conard:

The purpose of this letter is to refer you to a letter dated July 9, 1976, from the people of Utirik to Mr. Roger Ray of ERDA at the Nevada Operations Office. We would also like to make reference to an earlier letter from Representative John Haglelgam to you following the March survey. To date he has not received a response. Furthermore, Congressman Balos' letter dated May 5, 1976 to you has not been answered. Consequently, we should like to pose some questions, and seek some clarifications with regard to the Rongelap-Utirik issue.

We would, therefore, appreciate learning of your responses to the Representatives who made the inquiries, and also what response to the Utirik letter has been sent by either you or by Mr. Roger Ray.


Furthermore, we have heard that people of Rongelap and Utirik have complained that it was our Committee which said that no "descendants" of exposed persons would receive T.D. cards. Public Law No. 5-52, as amended by P.L. No. 5-30, indicates that descendants are covered under the law. However, the benefits are accorded to the people under the TTPI-ERDA agreement. Those who would receive cards, would be those listed on the EML roster. Furthermore, we recall that your position was that there was no reason to include descendants of exposed persons on the EML roster for two reasons: 1) it was unlikely that any effects would be transmitted to subsequent generations, and 2) putting them on the roster and thus giving them T.D. cards would lead them to believe that they fell into the same message class as the exposed Rongelapese.

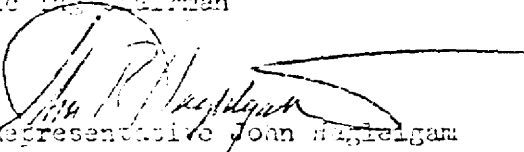
Dr. Robert A. Conard
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Here, we should note that we assure a descendant of an exposed person would be placed on the roster should that person develop a disease which might be linked to radiation. We would like your reconfirmation of the above so that we might try to explain to the people involved.

We are taking the liberty of attaching a copy of our short report to members of the Congress of Micronesia. In this connection, we look forward to testifying on the legislation in the near future, and a response to this letter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,


Representative Ataji Balos
Acting Chairman


Representative Joan Hageigan
Member

Mr. Roger Ray, AM/ERS
U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA)
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 11100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

Dear Mr. Ray:

This letter is from the chiefs and all of the people in Utirik Atoll. It has now been twenty-two years since the radioactive fall-out from the bomb, which has disturbed the peace and welfare from 1954 until the present.

The doctors from ERDA have told us that there were 14 rads in Utirik and 175 rads in Rongelap, therefore, we are very surprized, because in Utirik we have ten cases of thyroid nodules, three of which were malignant. But in Rongelap they have thirty cases of thyroid nodules, and also three cases of malignancy. Perhaps you can tell us if there is some explanation for the same number of malignant thyroid cases in Rongelap and Utirik, who received very different levels of radiation?

Additionally, we have many more things to ask, because at present we are not happy with the way things are:

1. Why is there not a control group in Utirik?
 - a) The people of Utirik are different from the people of Rongelap--they are a different gene pool and breeding population.
 - b) The people of Utirik were exposed to different levels of radiation than the people of Rongelap---Utirik had 14 rads, and Rongelap had 175 rads.
 - c) There were different return times for the Utirik people and the Rongelap people from Kwajalein (following their evacuation) in 1954---the people of Utirik returned to their atoll after three months, and the people of Rongelap returned to their atoll after three years.
 - d) Would it be correct to say that perhaps the Utirik people received more than only 14 rads in light of their quick return time to Utirik?
 - e) Would it be correct to say that we can expect many more cases of thyroid problems in the future?
2. How come the ERDA doctors told us that there was just a little bit of radiat in Utirik and a lot in Rongelap? That is, why are there the same number of malignant thyroid glands in Utirik as there are in Rongelap?
3. Why is it that the ERDA doctors do not examine the children of the original Utirik group?
4. Why is it that the ERDA doctors give different treatment to the people of Utirik than the people of Rongelap? They do not give full examinations to the people of Utirik every year, as they do in Rongelap. Why not?
5. The people of Utirik should be able to choose their own doctors:
 - a) The people of Utirik do not like Dr. Knudsen because he does not examine all of the Utirik people, and looks at the people of Utirik as if they are merely animals in a scientific experiment, and further, he does not provide a "sick call" for the people.
 - b) The people of Utirik do not like Dr. Conard because he lies to the people, and has not helped the people to understand their health.

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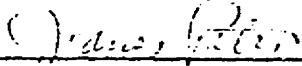
that they confront in regards to the radiation and its effects.

6. Some years ago, the ERDA doctors discovered that a number of the Utirik people had adult-onset diabetes, and said that 25% of the people had the disease.
 - a) Why haven't the ERDA doctors given medicine to the people who have the disease in Utirik (medicine: Diabinase)?
 - b) Dr. Konrad Kotrady had asked the Trust Territory Gov't. (in Majuro) for the medicine (Diabinase), and they refused to give him any for the people of Utirik, and therefore, the people with this disease have not been properly treated.

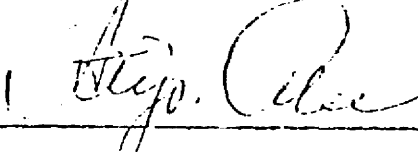
7. At present, the people of Utirik have much fear of the radiation that came from the bomb:
 - a) Therefore the people of Utirik feel the need to have someone come out and do a study of Utirik for possible lingering radiation.
 - b) The people of Utirik feel that their arrowroot has been damaged as a result of the radiation. At present the arrowroot stalks measure one foot, whereas before the radiation they measured five feet.

As you can see, the people of Utirik are very distressed and angry as a result of the radiation. The people feel that the ERDA Program is in need of vast changes.

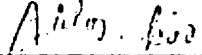
Thank you very much,



Joanej Peter - Magistrate

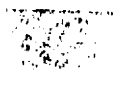


Atijo Alice - Scribe



Aplos Kios - Iroi (Chief)

cc: Robert A. Conrad, R.D., ERDA
Rep. Charles Dominak, Congress of Micronesia
Rep. Ataji Balos, Congress of Micronesia
Sen. Olympia Larja, Congress of Micronesia
Dist. Ad. Oscar Behnam, Marshalls
Fred Zeder, Dept. of Interior (US)
cc: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands



Armlj in Utirikles

S. Compass, L.
Compass Letpo
Jida, Bitten
Jida Bitten

Kajjo Peter
Kajjo Peter

Nelly. Ablos
Nelly Ablos

Ellen Juch
Ellen Juch

Minge Kel
Minge Kel

Alee Neawa
Alee Neawa

Arta Mital
Arta Mital

Loren Juch
Loren Juch

Leten Habbon
Leten Habbon

John Juan Kan
John Juan Kan
Laban Kallio
Laban Kallio

Jutok Miosa
Jutok Miosa

Demuko Meme
Demuko Meme

Bona Aibon
Bona Aibon

Jonaj Mexico
Jonaj Mexico

Kireaj Neawa
Kireaj Neawa

Arta Mital
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Mikol. Bitto
Mikol Bitto

Allen L. Kallio
Allen L. Kallio

Bank Mame
Bank Mame

Ejia Mito
Ejia Mito

Eento Kel
Eento Kel

Kenja Jokej
Kenja Jokej

Yosko Joreang
Yosko Joreang

Bolhur Jochon
Bolhur Jochon

Hor Joront
Hor Joront

Ellen Andj
Ellen Andj