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ON INCIDENCE OF THYROID
FOLDER CANCER OR OTHER DISEASE

IN THE EXPOSED GROUPS
1965-1968

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SEABORG
COMMISSIONER RAMEY
COMMISSIONER TAPE
COMMISSIONER JOHNSON

THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER *for* Donald C. Kulp

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL MEDICAL SURVEY OF THE MARSHALLESE
PEOPLE EXPOSED TO FALLOUT IN 1954

The subject survey carried out during March 1968 resulted in the detection of two more cases of thyroid nodules in children who were exposed to fallout on Rongelap when they were less than ten years of age. This brings the total number of cases of thyroid abnormalities in the 67 living Rongelapese to 21; of the 19 children in the more heavily exposed group who were less than 10 years of age at time of exposure, 17, or 90%, have developed thyroid abnormalities.

It was decided that 4 cases should be brought to the Brookhaven National Laboratory for complete medical evaluation and, if necessary, surgery. Preparations for their transportation and reception are now taking place. Three are people having thyroid nodules which had not responded to thyroid hormone therapy. The fourth is a 29-year-old woman with an unidentified tumor in the neck lateral to the gland. In the past, 11 Marshallese have undergone surgery; one woman exposed as an adult was found to have cancer of the thyroid, while 10 who were exposed when less than 10 years of age had benign adenomatous goiters.

The incidence of thyroid problems in this population is tabulated on the attached sheet.

John R. Totter
John R. Totter
Director

Division of Biology and Medicine

Attachment:
Thyroid Nodules Including Hypothyroidism
in the Marshallese Populations as of
March 1968