

REPOSITORY DOE - FORRESTAL

COLLECTION MARKEY FILES

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BOX No. 6 of 6

FOLDER MARSHALLESE / HEALTHCARE

Memo to Dr. CHE

Subject Medical Studies of the Marshall Islands Accidentally
Exposed to Fallout (RPIIS No. 000032)

I would like you to consider preparing a reevaluation of the research character of subject program, and, if concurred in ~~the~~ same, ~~to~~ to have this program transferred back into OHER/JHAPD.

I would say that it is more-or-less an article of faith that any human case of overexposure to external radiation or radioactive materials becomes a case for research, simply because our knowledge of radiation effects in human subjects is woefully lacking. In this respect, numbers don't enter into the decision whether or not medical follow-up/evaluation/treatment (if necessary) represents research or "single" medical care. In other words, epidemiologic considerations are not the only factor in determining the scientific research character, such as in the case of large-populations exposed to low-level radiation.

In the case of the conglomerate of activities, loosely known as the Marshall Islands (M.I.) program, there is no question that some of these activities have a ~~research~~ service, rather than a research character. The medical part, however, i.e., the part that concerns the Marshallese exposed to fallout radiation on March 2, 1954, and covering ~~the~~ persons inhabiting Ailinginae, Ujae, and Rongelap at that time, plus an equally large group acting as controls (altogether about 600 people)

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~~Approved~~ PASO

I know (and understand quite well!) that Dr. Bennett is extremely reluctant to have us involved in postdoctoral matters such as the operation of ships, general ~~and~~ health care matters (related or unrelated to the Boston bill), survey type activities, etc. I believe we can keep these matters outside our mission by stipulating that all service support related to the Medical Studies Program 000032 shall be the responsibility of ~~the MIT Program Manager~~, and that medical policy matters related to the MIT, but unrelated to project 000032, shall be the responsibility of ASEP.

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