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June 28, 1961

Charles L. Dunham, M.D., Director, DEM.

MEDICAL SURVEY OF THE SONGELAPESI - REPORT OF CONVERSATION JUNE 26 WITH RETIRING HIGH COMMISSIONER HUCKER AND NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER WILFRED GODING AND GEORGE MILNER, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

The Songelapese medical and ecological re-surveys still constitute problems in that there is strong feeling particularly by Mr. Hucker that these surveys are disrupting and tend to rekindle the Songelapese's fears of radiation damage as result of the BRAVO shot, March 1, 1954. The usual misunderstanding seems to have occurred between Dr. McDonald, Trustory doctor and Dr. Conard as to what future surveys should look like. This is apparent in the letter from Mr. Goding who told Dr. Conard there would be no more annual surveys by BNL under Dr. Conard though it might be desirable to have him come in at larger intervals of time. Essentially he stated that the Trust Territory was capable of keeping its own medical house in order and needed no assistance from the outside.

Considerable water has gone over the dam since the Goding letter to Dr. Conard. Dr. Conard, as Technical Advisor, with Mr. Goding, spent several days at the UN fighting the battle of the Trust Territory with the UN Trusteeship Council. It is apparent from the tack that Mr. Hucker took he was defending his past position in keeping these surveys minimal as well as defending McDonald to Goding; but as in the past, he is willing to backup to a reasonable continuing program. Mr. Goding, I think, is properly impressed with the importance of putting on the best possible front medically and scientifically to the UN particularly at this time when the whole concept of the US holding the territory in trust has been made an issue by the USSR.

We came to no finite conclusions but the decision was reached by Mr. Hucker and Mr. Goding for Mr. Goding to go back to Guam and see the memorandum agreement signed by Drs. Conard and McDonald which spelled out their mutual understanding of how future medical surveys are to be conducted. Mr. Goding is to forward me a copy of this. I threw in the suggestion that in the future when Dr. Conard's group has finished they should write up a preliminary report in conjunction with Dr. McDonald before

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