

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.
TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

November 29, 1960

Dr. C. L. Dunham, Director
Division of Biology and Medicine
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Chuck:

I have just returned from the Marshall Islands and in general the arrangements for the forthcoming survey were agreed upon to my satisfaction. Dr. Macdonald and Mr. Neas arrived at Majuro the day after I did, their plane being delayed with engine trouble. Mr. Neas is now DISTAD at Ponape and came to Majuro to relieve Boyd McKenzie so that he could visit some of the other islands.

A meeting was held with Dr. Macdonald, Boyd McKenzie, Mr. Neas, William Allen, Mr. Shoemaker and myself to discuss the survey. Mr. Nucker had forwarded a memorandum to McKenzie outlining certain stipulations which he desired fulfilled in regard to the survey. The major stipulation was that the Roque could only be gone from Majuro a maximum of three weeks. In view of travel time, this will obviously mean that we will have only about 12 to 13 days at Rongelap for the survey. Mr. Nucker insisted on a signed agreement, a copy of which is attached.

Both Dr. Macdonald and Mr. Neas, as well as the others, were very cordial and cooperative (as if nothing had transpired previously to the contrary). Dr. Mac went all out to assist in every possible way in the arrangements for the survey. In private I told him that I had been very much disappointed in his memorandum to Mr. Nucker since I had thought we had seen eye to eye on the importance of the surveys. He had little to say except that he had tried to get the Trust Territory to appreciate the significance of the survey as a research project and encouraged them to accept the surveys on this basis. He added that they did not seem to see it from this point of view. He hinted that the use of the Roque was one main deterrent in carrying out the surveys. I believe that it is quite likely, if the body burdens show no further increase, there will probably be no serious objections to carrying out future surveys by living on the island without need of the use of the Roque. Apparently they understood that it was only

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Dr. C. L. Dunham

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the whole body burden evaluation which would be on a 3 to 4 year basis and that routine annual examinations would be done. Dr. Mac indicated that perhaps the reason Mr. Nucker had wanted the agreement in writing and signed was due to the fact that Mr. Nucker might not be the High Com in the future since he has a political appointment and he wanted the agreement as a matter of record.

On arrival back at Kwajalein, I obtained a Navy flight and visited Rongelap. Fortunately, the Roque was there and I was able to talk to Mr. Roberts, the skipper, about the anticipated arrangements that would be necessary aboard his ship. He was quite cooperative.

I went ashore along with Dwight Heine, the field trip officer, and Dr. Isaac Lanwai, the medical practitioner, and met with Emos, the magistrate. I informed them of the anticipated survey. I went over the general medical situation at Rongelap with _____, the health aide, and found that nothing very unusual had occurred and the people appeared to be in good health. I obtained two coconut crabs, one from Rongelap Island and one from Binieatok Island, and one miscarriage pickled in alcohol for return to BNL for Sr⁹⁰ analysis. I left formalin in jars for _____ to preserve any further miscarriage products for me. (Dr. Mac had agreed to this procedure.)

I next proceeded from Kwajalein to Eniwetok and spent two days there with Lt. Cdr. Ofer and Mr. Thomas Hardison in arranging the rather large number of items requested of them in support of the installation of the steel room and accessory equipment aboard the Roque. They agreed to arrange in advance for all of the necessary procedures so that the Roque would spend a minimum of time at Eniwetok for these installations. I am arranging to purchase a 10 KW generator to leave permanently ashore at Rongelap. This generator will supply the necessary power for this survey as well as future surveys.

The only thing that is undecided at this time is the exact time of the survey. Mr. Nucker does not wish the survey team to be in the Islands at the time the United Nations team is there. They expect this team to be in the Trust Territory for about six weeks sometime in February and March. I am in touch with Mr. Lausi's assistant (Mr. Olsen) of the Department of the Interior trying to obtain more specifically the dates that the UN team will be in the Marshall Islands district since I am anxious to establish a firm date so that members of our team may plan accordingly.

I think I have covered the major points and I will be glad to discuss any items you wish in greater detail. Best regards.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Conard, M. D.

cc: Dr. H. David Bruner
Dr. Lee E. Farr

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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Office of the District Administrator
Marshall District

November 17, 1960

STIPULATIONS AND AGREEMENTS TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE 1961 RONGELAP MEDICAL SURVEY

The following listings cover the stipulations and agreements that have been fully discussed covering the Rongelap Medical Survey that is to be conducted in 1961.

1. TRANSPORTATION

- A. The M/V ROQUE, Trust Territory vessel will be used as the Medical Survey ship.
- B. The entire medical trip shall be a maximum of three (3) weeks, which shall be from departure to arrival of the vessels home port, which in this case is Majuro, Marshall Islands.
- C. The overall control of transportation, shall be the District Administrator, Marshall and the Field Trip Officer, who in this case will be Dr. H.E. Macdonald.
- D. A small boat and outboard engine will be furnished by the district for auxiliary transportation at Rongelap.

2. PERSONNEL

- A. The A.E.C. Medical Group will be under Dr. H. Conard and shall consist of no more than ten (10) members, including Dr. Conard.
- B. The Trust Territory Medical Group shall consist of not more than seven (7) members, including Dr. Macdonald.

3. MEDICAL EXAMINATION EVALUATION

- A. Body Burden Measure
- B. Physical Examinations - divided into special groups.
- C. Laboratory - blood and urine

4. PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE MEDICAL SURVEY

- A. Majuro Control Group will be examined prior to departure for Rongelap. This examination will not interfere in anyway with the sailing of the M/V ROQUE. The examination will take two (2) to three (3) days to complete.

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- B. The Rongelapese at Rongelap will be informed of all proceedings and shall be consulted prior to any examination. The time involved for the examinations shall be determined by the Field Trip Officer.
- C. The Rongelap People will be advised that the body burden reevaluation will not likely occur again for several years, dependent upon the results of this survey.

5. GIFTS

- A. There will be no gifts given the people of Rongelap. This would cover large gifts involving the entire group.

6. EQUIPMENT

- A. Dr. Conard will furnish a 10KW generator to be used ashore at Rongelap. This generator at the end of the survey will be stored at Rongelap for future use in medical surveys. The storage of this generator will be approved by the Council before storage.
- B. It has been agreed upon that in the case of any mechanical trouble with the 10KW generator, the medical group will be able to use the Trust Territory generator presently at Rongelap.
- C. By agreement, by and between Drs. Conard and Macdonald, certain medical supplies and equipment will be furnished by the Trust Territory. (Separate listing to be submitted)

7. SALARIES AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

- A. The Trust Territory will pay the salaries of their own personnel, unless otherwise specifically indicated.
- B. The A.E.C. Medical Personnel will be responsible for all personal expenses.

THE ABOVE STIPULENTS AND AGREEMENTS ARE AGREED UPON BY THE UNDER SIGNED ON THIS DAY OF THE 17TH., NOVEMBER 1960.

Signed _____
Dr. R. Conard
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Atomic Energy Commission

Signed _____
Dr. H.B. Macdonald
Director of Public Health
Trust Territory of the Pacific Is.

Signed _____
J.J. Mackenzie
Acting District Administrator
Marshall's District