

DEAR BILL, THE FOLLOWING IS THE NOTE THAT WAS SENT TO BNL
ROBERT A., THRU DR CONARD.

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

Jan

405331

MEMORANDUM

DEPOSITORY

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BOX No.

1228 "ERDA #3"

OLDER

BIO-MED, DR. CONARD
01 THRU 12/1976

DATE: December 27, 1976

TO: Robert A. Conard, M.D.

FROM: Jan Naidu

Jan Naidu

SUBJECT: Educational Program at Rongelap

Though many previous attempts have been made by the medical team and environmental monitoring groups at Rongelap to explain radiation and its effects to the people, the time element and the language barrier has made this difficult. In view of recent events it is more important than ever to institute an educational program. This could be best accomplished by having one of the scientific staff involved in this program stay on Rongelap for an extended period for this purpose.

During the September/October 1976 visit to Rongelap, the people asked if I would be willing to come back to Rongelap for an extended stay to do this. It is therefore proposed that I be allowed to accompany Dr. Knudsen on his January trip to Rongelap and remain there until the ERDA/T.T. meeting on that island. I would like to lecture on the following topics:

- a. The nature of the radioactive atom (formation, the types of radiation, half life)
- b. the interaction of radiation with matter
- c. the concept of protection from radiation
- d. the biological interaction with radiation
- e. the problems associated with lowlevel exposure to radiation
- f. the importance of the medical examinations
- g. the radioactivity of other parts of the world, including natural radiation background

As you know, Mr. Jerry Knight, on Rongelap, speaks excellent Marshallese and has agreed to help me in every way possible with this program. In addition, the entire proceedings will be taped and should prove useful in the future. This is an ambitious program, however, the specific plan of action can only be decided after being there. Every effort will be made to encourage questions from the residents so as to recognize the areas of misconception. Questions regarding policy matters will be avoided. It is hoped that the end result of this program will be to enlighten the people on radiation and also act as a guide for further educational programs for the Marshallese.