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Nagasaki Shimbun

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Bikini Survivors Suffering Bone Marrow Impairment

Gensuikin Kyushu Bloc Council Obtains Medical Charts

The Gensuikin Kyushu Bloc Council (affiliated with Socialist Party and Sohyo, business manager: Kazuyoshi Yamakawa) obtained AEC's medical charts for 66 persons exposed to the H-bomb test conducted by the United States at the Bikini Atoll on 1 March 1954. On the basis of the medical charts, two exposed Micronesian youths were invited to Japan on 14 May this year. Recently the results of analysis of the medical charts have been compiled.

The medical charts are for the residents of Rongelap Island and another island exposed to the H-bomb at the most proximal distance. These charts record the aftereffects and course of treatment during the 19 years from the time of exposure to 1973. Medical scientists who have analyzed the medical charts point out, "Bone marrow impairment has appeared and some effect might appear in the blood hereafter. There were 10 cases of thyroid disorder including 3 cases of thyroid cancer."

The 66 subjects consist of 50 residents of Rongelap Island (exposed to 175 rad), 12 residents of Ailinginae (phonetic) Island (69 rad) and 4 in-utero exposed. Except for the in-utero exposed, the subjects were exposed to fallout immediately after the experiment and showed such symptoms as epilation, nausea, and radiation burns quite similar to those of the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Particularly among the residents of Rongelap Island, all subjects of age 21 to 30 showed remarkable decrease of blood count. Subsequently, spontaneous abortion and impairment of vision have occurred among them.

Moreover, the medical charts of 20 who have died indicate that five of them died of leukemia or cancer of the genital organ. Those concerned of the Red Cross Nagasaki A-bomb Hospital and the Atomic Disease Institute, Nagasaki University School of Medicine who engaged in the analysis are afraid the risk of such disorders would continue hereafter.

However, no specialist is stationed on full-time basis near the Bikini Atoll and American doctors of AEC examine the survivors only twice a year. Thus, there is being provided no full-scale medical treatment.



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Under the circumstances the Kyushu Bloc Council on 14 May this year invited to Japan Mr. (33) and Mr. (27) of Rongelap Island as the first group from among the 66 subjects of the medical charts. They received medical treatment admitted to the Red Cross Nagasaki A-bomb Hospital.

Statement by Dr. Takaaki Shikaya, Chief of Clinical Laboratory, Red Cross A-bomb Hospital:

The analysis of medical charts was almost complete at the end of July this year. Some cases showed bone marrow disorder 18 years after exposure, differing greatly from onset 4-5 years later in case of Nagasaki. In any case, when the bone marrow is impaired there is a great risk of hematopoietic disturbance appearing and careful surveillance seems to be indicated. However, these medical charts have been reported in Chapter 12 of "Atomic Medicine" published in the United States in 1969, and the results of analysis are nothing new to medical scientists.

(RERF Translation Sec (N) - 10 Aug 76)

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED