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FM USDOE NV ROGER RAY ASST FOR PACIFIC OPERATIONS LAS VEGAS NV

TO RHEGGTN/USDOE T F MCCRAW WASH DC

RUHGSAA/HON ADRIAN WINKEL HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

RUHGSAA/OSCAR DEBRUM DISTAD MARSHALLS MAJURO

INFO RUHVAAA/USDOE W J STANELY DIR PASO HONOLULU

RUPIPJ/USNS WHEELING TAGM-8

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UNCLASSIFIED/N O N W D/NARR. FINAL SECTION OF 2

RADIATION EXPOSURE AT BIKINI. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT MEDICAL VISITS WILL NEED TO BE EXTENDED TO ANY OF THE OTHER ATOLLS WE ARE SURVEYING.

(SPECIAL ADDITIONAL TEXT FOR ENEWETAK/UJELANG:
AFTER THE RESETTLEMENT OF PEOPLE ON ENEWETAK, WE DO PLAN TO PERIODICALLY MEASURE THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS THAT PEOPLE ARE ABSORBING. THIS WILL BE DONE BY NON-INTRUSIVE TECHNIQUES KNOWN AS IN-VIVO COUNTING AND BIO-ASSAY. THE PURPOSE WILL BE TO ASSURE THAT THE DIET AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE

REPOSITORY DOE-FORRESTAL
COLLECTION MARKY FILES
BOX No. 6056
FOLDER 218 MARSHALLESE ISLANDS #4 SEPTEMBER 1978-MAY 1979

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BEING FOLLOWED AND ARE EFFECTIVE. THESE TECHNIQUES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER ANY UPTAKE IS OCCURRING LONG BEFORE IT BECOMES OF ANY HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO CONDUCT ANY DIRECT HEALTH SURVEILLANCE OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE.)

Q.10. YOU FOUND MORE RADIATION IN THE BODIES OF THE BIKINI PEOPLE THAN YOU EXPECTED. WILL YOU BE CHECKING OUR BODIES FOR RADIATION?

A.10 NO. MEASUREMENTS OF LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY IN PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING MADE DURING THIS SURVEY. WE WOULD PLAN TO MAKE SUCH CHECKS ONLY IF SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE THAT THERE EXISTS A POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT UPTAKE. SEE SPECIAL ENEWETAK TEXT, ABOVE.

Q.11. SEVERAL OF OUR PEOPLE (FROM LIKIEP) WERE EXAMINED AND FOUND TO HAVE THYROID PROBLEMS. WERE THESE CAUSED BY RADIATION?

A.11. THYROID ABNORMALITIES OCCUR SPONTANEOUSLY EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING IN THE MARSHALLS. THERE IS NO WAY OF DETERMINING CONCLUSIVELY WHETHER ANY PARTICULAR CONDITION OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF RADIATION OR DUE

TO SOME OTHER CAUSE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY OF THE LIKIEP PEOPLE RECEIVED AN EXPOSURE TO RADIATION SUFFICIENT TO BE THE CAUSE OF THYROID DISORDER.

Q.12. DOES THE COLLECTION OF FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS FISH AND COCONUT INDICATE THESE ARE NOT SAFE TO EAT?

A.12. NO. WE ARE COLLECTING THESE SAMPLES AND THE SAMPLES OF SOIL AND WATER IN ORDER TO GET THE MOST COMPLETE PICTURE WE CAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARSHALLS ARE LIVING. THERE IS RADIATION EVERYWHERE AND OUR PURPOSE IS TO VERIFY THAT THE RADIATION LEVELS IN YOUR FOOD PRODUCTS ARE WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS.

Q.13. WHEN WILL THE RESULTS OF THESE SAMPLES BE KNOWN?

A.13. THE LABORATORY RESULTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR MANY MONTHS, BUT THE MEASUREMENTS WE WILL TAKE WHILE WE ARE HERE WILL GIVE A GOOD INDICATION OF WHETHER THERE IS ANY REASON TO BE CONCERNED. IF THERE IS ANY SUCH INDICATION WE WILL GIVE SPECIAL PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ANALYSIS OF THE LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS.