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COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

House of Representatives, U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 22, 1964

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Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received a letter from a Marshallese gentleman who is justifiably concerned over the continuing effects his people may suffer from radioactive fallout they experienced on Rongelap in March, 1954.

I am aware of the thorough treatment the unfortunate victims received between 1954 and 1960 and of the regular examinations they are receiving from the Atomic Energy Commission. I am confident that you have done all that is advisable to do for them.

My correspondent writes, "Of course, the people of Rongelap are now back on their islands, but they are not allowed to eat fish from the water surrounding the islands of Rongelap, neither are they allowed to eat anything from their local plants. This is again because of the poison from the radioactive fallout from the H-Bomb." I would appreciate having Dr. Robert A. Conard, Director of the Medical Survey Team which is charged with keeping in touch with the Rongelapese, comment on my quoted statement. I was in hopes that the ill effects of the fallout had disappeared.

Sincerely yours,

WAYNE N. ASPINALL
Chairman