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A. Tammaro, Asst. General Manager for Research and Industrial Development

April 23, 1954

H. C. Brown, Jr., Executive Officer
Division of Biology and Medicine

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FUTURE MEDICAL CARE OF NATIVES OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK

SYMBOL: BME:HCB

Biology and Medicine has concurred in the proposed letter to Admiral Carney in which the AEC accepts joint responsibility with DOD for rehabilitation of the natives. We note, however, that the letter does not, and apparently was not intended to deal with the question of future medical care after rehabilitation. CINCPAC in his 160501Z to CNO makes clear that he does not assume responsibility for future medical care.

In his 220405Z message to me, Dr. Bugher suggests that future medical care after rehabilitation might well be the responsibility of AEC, recognizing administrative responsibility of the High Commissioner of the Territories of the Pacific. Apparently this was the understanding informally reached with High Commissioner Midkiff when he visited Dr. Bugher in Washington last week.

We will not wish to commit the AEC to a long-range program until there has been an opportunity carefully to explore the various ramifications. I believe, however, that the General Manager should be aware that the long-range problem of medical care of the exposed natives remains unresolved. The Division will submit its recommendations on this matter in the near future.

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